California GARDEN

March/April 2008 Volume 99 No. 2 $4.00

Fragrant Orchids

Bonsai Primer • Gardening for Fire

Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale, & Tomatomania©

March 29 and 30
9 AM – 4 PM

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION of the wonders of herbs at Quail Botanical Gardens' 12TH Annual Herb Festival.

SPECIAL GUEST – Lucinda Hutson, author of *The Herb Garden Cookbook and ¡Tequila! Cooking with the Spirit of Mexico*. This nationally celebrated lecturer and renowned organic gardener and designer will speak at 2:30 PM both days.

SPECIAL GUEST FOR KIDS – Janell Cannon, author-illustrator of award-winning *Stellaluna*. Janell will read *Little Yau and Trupp*, part of her Fuzzhead series with crafts to follow at 11 AM Saturday.

TOMATOMANIA – lectures and plenty of hybrid tomato seedlings

SPRING PLANT SALE – lots of vendors, lots of plants

AND MORE - guided tours of the Herb Garden, on-going speakers on garden and herb-related topics, Herb Festival Market-place, the A-Z of Herbs information booths, tea tastings, music in the gazebo

Free with admission to the Gardens

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

March/April 2008, Volume 99, Number 2

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From the President

This eloquent message written by Mr. Connell, our second president, expresses my exact plea to our present membership. If we are to keep our association strong we must have your dedicated participation in Floral events. In 2009 we celebrate the centennial of *California Garden* magazine, which will be planned this year. Please become part of the effort to support and expand the role of the San Diego Floral Association.

Kay Harvey

President's Message by Stephen Connell

June & July, 1917

Through the "Garden" I desire to thank the members of the Association for their support during the past year, and to those who were especially active in the work, in all its branches, I wish to tender my sincere thanks. I deeply appreciate this great assistance which was so generously given, I feel that the spirit which prompted it is properly in accord with the spirit of the association.

To be helpful in the promotion of a happier condition is a very stimulating work, and it cannot be questioned that those members who produced the Rose Show and the Annual Meeting must feel elated over the result to the work accomplished. Mr. Robinson's words of up-lift spoken at the Annual Meeting should help us forward and excite in us a greater desire to be useful. I invite all members to more actively participate in the work of the association. It is not necessary to look far to see much we can do during the coming year. If we are anxious to work I do not see how we can do it all unless we all help. Therefore I ask every member to prepare to devote some time to Floral Association work during the coming year. There will be enough to do, let us be certain there will be enough to do it.

Remember that this is your Association and you are responsible for your proportion of the work and you will receive your share of the reward.

I wish, particularly to speak of the *California Garden*, the publication which we are please to call "the official organ" of the Association. If it is the "official organ of the Association" then it is entitled to our consideration, care and assistance. We should all do more than read it. We should procure, if possible, subscribers.

Every member of the Association should bring into the Association at least one new member. During the coming year we will need more help, more money and more suggestions than ever before. There will be more to do than ever before and a membership campaign should be considered.

Activity and interest in the work is much desired. My close association with it during the past year has clearly shown to me that the reward is more gratifying and I earnestly entreat co-operation. Be more than a member who pays his dues. Be a working member.

My worthy predecessor in office (I like to think of him as the father of the Floral Association) at the Annual Meeting preceding the last, stated that it was an honor and a pleasure to be the president of the Floral association. After a year's service in the office I am please to agree with him. I learned a little about the work last year; I trust I shall be infinitely more useful during the ensuing year.

MOVING? Please let us know.

Help us keep membership costs down by informing us of your new address promptly.

Fill out this form and fax it to us at 619-232-5762 or mail it to: SDFA, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684.

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

CRAFT AND FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP

March 4, 2008 **Floral Arranging 101**

Basic floral arranging class for beginners. Learn how to work with floral supplies, containers and floral materials. Materials for an arrangement will be supplied. Bring any floral supplies you may have (a small supply kit will be available for sale).

Cost: $30 members, $35 non-members

Teacher Linda Lindgren, flower show judge, floral designer and teacher

March 11, 2008 **Floral Arranging 102**

Floral arranging class for beginners using basics learned in previous class. Learn how to prepare, and select appropriate floral materials for various types of arrangements. Bring flat container not to exceed 8" across, flowers and tools

Cost: $25 members, $30 non-members

Teacher: Linda Lindgren

March 18, 2008 **Floral Arranging 103**

Intermediate floral arranging class for beginners. "Now you are arranging" and applying what you have learned. Bring container, flowers, foliage and tools.

Cost: $25 members, $30- non-members

Teacher: Linda Lindgren

March 25, 2008 **Floral Arranging 104**

Go beyond the basics and stretch your skills. Work with floral materials in a creative way, bending, wiring, cutting and shaping foliage and flowers to enhance your arrangement. Bring container, flowers, foliage and container.

Cost: $25 members, $30 non-members

Teacher: Linda Lindgren

It's easy to register!

Just fill out this form (or a copy of it) and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 .

PAYMENT FOR CLASSES MUST BE INCLUDED.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers. Call Marie Walsh for more information about Sand Diego Floral Association workshops at 619-298-5128. To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

(For April classes, consult the SDFA newsletter, or call the SDFA office at 619-232-5762 for more details.)

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California GARDEN

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Floral Extravaganza

Battle of the Bloom a Resounding Success

Professional floral designer, René van Rems

Our Centennial year was extended, due to the October firestorms. On January 13th Battle of the Bloom was an outstanding afternoon of incredible floral designs, entertaining floral designers, music, costumes and admiring guests. The creative genius behind the event, David Root, not only envisioned, wrote, recruited, staged and directed the extravaganza, but also emcee for the event. He and his talented and dedicated committee worked for months on the details. The result was fast paced and action-packed, keeping the audience spinning in what was to many their first exposure to a floral design competition.

Our founding members from 1907 would have been astonished and thrilled at the results! The elaborate floral creations, which were accomplished in a matter of minutes, would not have been possible one hundred years ago. The variety of flowers and the evolution in the art and materials of floral design would have amazed them.

Early guests toured a display of showpieces by each of the participating designers to the theme "Victory at Sea." It was but a glimpse of the day to unfold. These beautiful designs and others created in the show were donated and raffled off to benefit Operation Homefront (*www.operationhomefront.org*), which aids military families in need.

The event began appropriately with the presentation of colors by the United States Marine Corps from Camp Pendleton and the singing of the national anthem.

Three well-known non-professional designers from local garden clubs were first on stage. Carvill Veech, George Speer and Bob Gordon—three prize-winning designers—were given the theme "Dress Whites" and instructed to create a design for a formal Navy dinner party. Each was presented with identical buckets of flowers and containers for the competition. They were given a few minutes to look a their materials, and conceptualize their design, before setting to the task. Twenty minutes flew by as they handled containers, tools, accessories and flowers in the process of creation, until they were instructed to "stop and step away from your design." One color, the same flowers and materials, and the resulting designs, each gorgeous, were worlds apart.

Next, the professional designers came to the stage. René van Rems, Betty Del Sol Patterson and Robbie Santalucito all have many years in the floral design industry and are well known for their talent and creativity. Their theme was "A Bridge Too Far," and required two or more containers. As interesting as the final designs, was watching the disparate approaches of consummate professionals. Betty is a more deliberate designer and ran out of time, so René and Robbie pitched in to help complete her piece.

A round robin event followed, in which the professionals began with different flowers, containers and themes, designed for seven minutes, then rotated to the next design, taking up where the first designer left off, sometimes completely redesigning the piece! The audience was enthralled to see the evolution.

Finally, the Celebrity Surprise Package teamed the professional designers with local celebrities: Julian Duvall of Quail Botanical Garden, Steven Luke and Lorrie Jordan of NBC. Our professionals had their hands tied behind their backs and were not allowed to touch any of the materials as they aided the celebrities in creating flower arrangements. The contortions of the professionals as they tried to use their voices to communicate their instructions and ideas without their hands were comical, but their apprentices worked hard to accomplish the task. By popular vote, Julian Duval won this competition.

During the competition, USO girls modeled fanciful designs created entirely from materials and accessories used in the floral trade. The dresses were romantic, bright, fanciful and sassy and all the models were lovely.

Judges Linda Lindgren, Velma West and Carolyn Epple had carefully evaluated the designs and the Grand Prize professional winner was René van Rems. Carvill Veech won first place among the Garden Club contestants and was chosen by the guests as their first place winner for her pre-made design depicting "Victory at Sea."

All the floral designs were donated as part of the opportunity drawing to benefit Homefront San Diego. The proceeds from ticket sales will enable the San Diego Floral Association to continue their educational activities in the field of horticulture and floriculture. Thirty-seven bouquets by the Floral Guild made from the leftover flowers were taken to the VA Hospital and Balboa Navy Hospital, much as Floral members did in 1917. The tradition has been revived.

The San Diego Floral Association is most grateful for the creativity, energy and time of all the participants who worked with David to make the Battle of the Bloom a resounding success. The founding members would be delighted and proud to see the grand tradition of floral design as presented in Battle of the Bloom. To see pictures of the event, please visit *www.sdfloral.org.*— *Lucy Warren*

Flowers and Their Spiritual Messages

Meet SDFA Guest Merry Street Of Zenspiration Gardens At Our April 15 General Meeting

Merry Street

Everyone who has had the joy of picking up even one blossom and putting it into a container has experienced the spirituality of flowers. Whether we are conscious of it or not, their beauty and expression of nature's joy and serenity impart that energy to each glance and each touch.

Scientists explain it in light waves. Physicists explain it in molecular structure and energy. Artists and designers generally don't try to explain it, but simply work with the result.

In a melding of Eastern and Western philosophy and tradition, Merry Street uses her beliefs, and artistic and design talents to create unique floral designs for individuals. Her business, is Zenspiration Gardens (*www.zen-opolis.com*), has been featured in the Dish TV program "Feng Shui Living." She has been invited to create designs for major events including the Mainly Mozart celebration.

A dynamic and innovative floral designer, Merry Street is developing a unique and exciting program for our meeting. Prior to her presentation, she will be creating a Community Flower Mandala to honor the people of San Diego. Everyone who comes is encouraged to bring one or more flowers to help create the mandala.

Community Mandalas teach unity, peace, cooperation, tolerance, support and compassion. It is her hope that the flower mandala will not only bring physical comfort to those who see and participate in creating the mandala, but also those for whom the mandala is created. This mandala will be in honor of those who are going through rights-of-passage, or who need help during a challenging time. As we lay the flowers down, we'll concentrate on their betterment.

She will then demonstrate flower designs that interpret a spiritual journey with flowers. Some of the designs will be complete, while others will be completed on stage. As she explains her technique and the meanings of the arrangements, she will be accompanied by crystal bowl music by Elivia. These unique and beautiful arrangements will be raffled at the end of the program. At the end of the program, we will remove the mandala by taking its flowers with us.

The San Diego Floral Association April meeting is free and open to the public. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on April 15, 2008. Prior to the meeting, an optional catered dinner is available at a cost of $12 for members and $15 for non-members by paid reservation, made prior to Monday, April 14. For more information, call 619-232-5762. —*Lucy Warren*

Home Sweet Home: Hollyhocks

The seeds arrived in a large white envelope, carefully wrapped in tissue paper. My mother's hollyhock seeds are labeled "dark red," "(almost black)" and "pink." The seeds are not just from my mother; they are originally from my grandmother, who grew hollyhocks in profusion against the backdrop of her chicken coop. I am carried back in time by memories of my family, and I determine to grow those seeds and once again see hollyhocks!

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Hollyhocks are difficult to germinate directly in the ground, so I found that starting the seeds in flats and then transplanting them works best. (I have had success in the fall with seed planting.) They grow very tall, five to six feet in height, so they are an excellent backdrop along a fence or a wall. They are biennial, and must grow for a year before they bloom the following year. The seeds will fall down and begin the cycle again, though you can harvest them. The tall stalks can be cut back, and the plant will come up again in the spring.

The plants that I grew were a marvel; tall and strong with colors of deep maroon and bright red, as well as pink and white. Friends who saw the hollyhocks were amazed, and many "transplants" from the Midwest and the East were touched with nostalgia. I am certain that my hollyhocks would delight my grandmother, and my mother, who viewed photos of my plants, was very impressed. Flowers and plants can indeed be links to the past and the future. Perhaps someday, my own daughter will carry on the hollyhock tradition. —*Victoria Phillips*

Dig in!

Flower Arranging Tips

CREATIVE FLOWER ARRANGING IS ENHANCED BY ADVANCE PLANNING

Gathering Materials

- Collect fan palm leaves and cut them into shapes while green. As they dry, they shrivel and change into useful forms.
- Select design elements, including flowers that are in scale with the container.
- Proper selection of materials to pair with the container is the first step in a satisfactory design.
- Think texture when interpreting a design title. Texture refers to the surface quality. Shiny, glossy surfaces and sharp lines denote modern titles, while fuzzy and rough surfaces with flat surfaces are cozier and more traditional.
- Buy pin holders (Japanese kenzan) at yard sales if the pins are sharp. If pins are bent, use a pin straightener, available through an online search or at an Ikebana International meeting.
- Pin holders can be secured to a flat container with a rope of Stickum on the bottom. An alternate is to place a kenzan in a small cat food or tuna can or heavy galvanized pipe cap.

Preparing Materials

- Buy flowers in bud stage and put some in warm water to open them. Store the remainder in a cool location.
- Remove all foliage that will be below the water line to reduce bacterial growth.

Placing Materials

- To avoid a droopy design, place the heads of flowers to face the sun. It gives the design "life."
- Avoid placing main line materials to form "rabbit ears" or a fan. These take the eye out of the design and disturb the rhythm of the design.
- While the front side of foliage is usually preferred to be placed facing forward, the backs of some leaves have fuzzy textures and great colors which can add interest to a design.
- Cover floral foam moss. This can be done before, during or after the design is created. Use damp, wrung-out moss in fresh designs and use it dry in dried designs.

Drying and Treating Materials

- To gather palm fronds, keep an eye out for tree trimmers who will gladly give them away. Strip off any thorns on the stems with a knife edge and cut the fronds with scissors to the desired shape. Leave in a dry place until all green color has gone
- Some weathered wood, driftwood, and branches are naturally complete works of art, but trimming, cleaning and sometimes combining two or more pieces are required to produce a more complex and appealing art form.
- Design-destined wood that is partially decayed or covered with dirt should be hosed, soaked, wired brushed and perhaps bleached. Sanding, varnishing, staining or waxing will perfect its texture and enhance the grain. — *Carvill Veech*

We Will Miss Robert Horwitz

In Memorium 1922 - 2008

In his first career Robert Horwitz was a space engineer with Convair and General Dynamics. He worked with the Tomahawk Cruise missile and on moon shot technology. On retirement he discovered stag horn ferns and his collection of stag horn ferns, some over 50 years of age, grace his garden today. At the urging of his wife he submitted an article on stag horn ferns to the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and became a regular columnist, sharing gardening tips with his readers. Bob also wrote for *San Diego Home/Garden Magazine* and wrote of his trips to England and Australia.

About 20 years ago he discovered *California Garden*, and soon became a regular contributor writing about tuberous begonias and bromeliads, two of his favorite plants, as well as vegetable growing information, including recipes. Horwitz also enjoyed the flexibility of container planting, moving plants for interest and enjoyment.

In addition to his written contributions Bob served as president of the Floral board, and was an active member of the editorial board for many years. He was a seasoned judge of the display gardens at the San Diego County Fair.The love of gardening has been passed on to members of the family. We share his granddaughter, Eleanore Rae Jorgenson's essay on her favorite natural place, her grandparents' backyard on page 9. Her experience with the special place will always stay with her, thanks to the opportunity Bob and Gerry created. At his death on January 13th Bob had read the essay and knew it would be published. We thank him and his family for so many wonderful contributions to our magazine and organization. – *Kay Harry*

Digging Deep

See How People And Plants Have Evolved Together At The Worldbeat Center's Children's Ethnobotanical Garden

PHOTO: AMY R. WOOD

Makeda Dread, director of the WorldBeat Cultural Center (*www.worldbeatcenter.org*), has a vision and wants to share it. Imagine a garden of herbs, edible plants and other useful botanicals from around the world. See and hear children, with parents and grandparents, together playing, digging, planting, eating and harvesting from this working research garden. Gardens have a healing energy, especially in the concrete, plastic and steel urban worlds that we live in. It could be the healthy nutritional value of homegrown organic food, or the powerful medicinal effects of herbs, or the aromatherapy of lavender or sagebrush. All of this together is Makeda's vision in action, at the WorldBeat Center's Children's Ethnobotanical Garden.

Bite into an apple. The taste is sweet and divine. The texture is crunchy and juicy. As you open your senses to the magnificence of this fruit, your mind may start to wander and wonder, "Where did it come from, off a tree, from the farmer's market or from the store?" The question goes much deeper! That apple that you bite into has an ancestral history that parallels humanity's history. That apple is as individual as you, and if it could tell a story—what a story it would tell. There would be tales of gardeners and farmers, hungry animals and their poop, Johnny Appleseed, China and the Garden of Eden.

This is the essence of ethnobotany, the study of humanity's relationship with the plant world. Each plant has its own story. They have their places of origin, where they first found respect by the indigenous people of that area. As plants were shared, they traveled around the world. The Children's Ethnobotanical Garden celebrates this, as well as how people can appreciate the plants around them here and now. For instance, local people visiting the garden will easily recognize the aromatic native White Sage, but few people will recognize the very useful and exotic Moringa trees. The Children's Ethnobotanical Garden, located just beside the WorldBeat Cultural Center in Balboa Park, is a world community garden, where people of all ages, from anywhere on the planet, are invited to come and share in the experience. The six-year-old garden is going into its next growth spurt, and design ideas are on the table (educational signage is one important goal). If you are interested in helping or participating, please call 619-230-1190. – *John Noble*

My Favorite Place

Bob Horwitz's 11-year Old Granddaughter Describes Time Spent In Her Grandma's Garden

My Grandma's backyard is endless. Running up the steps and through the pickle weed I follow a small path. It's always sunny and warm here until I arrive through an arch of willow leaves where it's cool. I edge along on the top of a small cliff looking down at the neighbor's house. Once I pass by, I run now in the grass towards an old rusty play set. I push off from the ground, high and higher, then I swing back down to earth before I start all over again. This is my favorite place. Every time I come, birds are waiting and when they see me they launch into song. It's even better when it has just rained so every smell is magnified. It feels fresh, new and alive. I don't care if the swing I'm sitting on is wet or not because I feel peaceful and safe. – *Eleanor Rae Jorgensen*

Flower Power WINS

San Diego Press Club Recognizes Article on Floral Centennial

The San Diego Press Club awarded Roger Showley a first place award in the category of history for his March 18, 2007 Homescape article in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* titled "Flower Power." The article was a major feature about the San Diego Floral Association honoring our centennial year.

His note to our president, Kay Harry, read: "Hi Kay – One additional note on your 100th. I won a first place award at the San Diego Press Club in the history category for the horticulture story. So we both won! It was fun working with you this year and hope to do so again." —*Lucy Warren*

Healthy Houseplants

Help Your Indoor Plants Stay Well With These Tips

All houseplants are not created equal. Some are particularly adept at accepting the challenging household conditions of low light and humidity. While it is oft trumpeted that houseplants clean the air in the house, thus improving health of the human residents, experience often finds keeping the plants themselves healthy can be elusive.

All of the plants described below can withstand occasional drying. All are happier with evenly moist (not wet) soil. From past experience, the Hawaiian elf and mother-in-laws tongue survive best from moisture abuse and bounce back from a total dry-out without any obvious damage. The trick to reviving a severely dried-out plant is to tease the plant with water to re-hydrate the soil mass, returning to normal watering once turgidity has returned. Keep in mind that even though you can't see it, roots are damaged and may not be able to absorb water well: if they don't absorb the water, the soil will be too wet too long, and may trigger root rot.

These plants do okay in dry house air (relative to the tropics, where most houseplants come from). One way to add a little local humidity is to set the pot the plant is in on a layer of gravel or decorative marbles in a saucer or cache pot. Drained water will evaporate and add a bit of humidity. This also helps assure the plant isn't kept in too soggy soil. These plants are easy to maintain with a very slow growth rate in low light and humidity. With adequate food, light and high humidity, these plants will grow lushly. It's easiest to buy a plant the size you want and then feed/water with the barest amount necessary to keep it alive.

Common sense dictates that you do not put the plants close to a heater or in the flow of air ducts. No plant will survive in a windowless bathroom, low light plants in high light conditions burn easily and terrestrial plant roots will not be happy in constant saturated conditions.

Keeping houseplants in impossible situations is possible using multiple plants. Rotate one for a week in a too-dark spot, then several weeks in a spot with adequate light. A friend near the coast in Orange County had his plants on a three-foot wide terrace during the week, bringing them into his dark apartment for the weekend, when he was home to enjoy them. Being right next to the building provided enough warmth to keep them going through all but the coldest winter nights.

Plants stack chlorophyll in higher light situations because the light is strong enough to get to lower layers. When light conditions change, a plant may drop leaves with the wrong chlorophyll configuration and put out new leaves to correct the situation. If the soil is moist and leaves drop, don't water more—water less until there are enough new leaves to use additional water.

Houseplants tend to prefer peat-based, rather than bark-based, soil mixes. The easiest way to fertilize is to use a nitrogen rich complete time-release fertilizer, cutting the recommendation to one-fourth to one-half strength when maintenance, rather than growth, is desired. Water when the soil surface begins to feel dry to the touch and don't allow the pot to stand in the drained water.

Here are half dozen tough old standards that have proven to be easy to maintain.

- **Cast Iron Plant** (*Aspidistra elatior* and cultivars): A clumping plant with large leaves, it may grow up to three feet high. Rarely needs to be divided.
- **Janet Craig Dracaena** (*Dracaena deremensis* 'Janet Craig'): This dark glossy green upright plant grows very slowly to several feet. Use multiple plants together for taller sizes because it doesn't naturally branch much. I've had one in a one-gallon container for 30 years that is still at about a foot tall due to fertilizing for maintenance only.
- **Golden Pothos** (*Epipremnum aureum*; the cultivar 'Marble Queen' isn't as sturdy): A vine, it is best occasionally pinched to pot rim to keep it branching near the crown.
- **Snake Plant** (*Sansevieria trifasciata* and cultivars): Clumping plants, some snake plants stay under a foot tall, others grow to about three feet tall. Rarely needs to be divided.
- **Hawaiian Elf** a.k.a. Dwarf Schefflera (*Schefflera arboricola* and cultivars): Easily grows to head high, and is best terminally pinched to encourage side branches. Some of the variegated forms are slower growing and tend to self-branch.
- **Heart-leaf Philodendron** (*Philodendron scandens*): A vine with glossy grayed-green leaves. Use the same care as recommended for pothos. —*Gerald Stewart, New Leaf Nurseries*

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Sansevieria

CORRECTION In the January/February 2008 issue, Laura Starr was mistakenly identified as Linda Starr, both in her book review, "Covering Ground" on page 18, and on page 3. Additionally, Bob Horwitz's name was misspelled on page 3 in a previous issue. We regret the errors.

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Orchids

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The Good, The Bad and The Stinky

A Profile of Orchids and Their Myriad Fragrances

By Christopher Croom

The family *Orchidaceae* contains the largest number of named flowering plants, with at least 25,000 species. There are literally millions of cultivated hybrids and hundreds of natural hybrids, with the former being created by orchid hybridizers and hobbyists, and the latter being created by pollinators occurring in the orchids' natural habitats. Some experts believe that as orchid taxonomy continues, there may eventually be as many as 30,000 to 50,000 naturally-occurring named species, meaning that there are up to 100 percent more species that haven't even been discovered yet.

Orchids are one of the three most popular cultivated flowers in North America, with the *Phalaenopsis* genus and its related hybrids being the most often sold and grown. Orchids are commonly considered to be "exotic" tropical flowers, inhabiting steamy, equatorial jungles in horticultural conditions considered difficult or nearly impossible to emulate in captivity; this is largely a myth. As the largest family of flowering plants, they occupy every continent except Antarctica, and many thrive outdoors in California. The state flower of Minnesota (yes, Minnesota, with winter temperatures that often reach -40 degrees Fahrenheit with eight or nine months of snow on the ground) is an orchid known as the "showy ladies slipper," *Cypripedium reginae*.

Orchids are everywhere, from cultured beauties sold in big box stores (think Target and Home Depot), to natives growing in state parks. California has over 20 wild orchid species that can be regularly found, including a newly re-identified species from Yosemite. *Platanthera yosemitensis*, which smells like sweaty gym socks. A handful of native species can be found in San Diego County, including *Epipactis gigantea*, the "stream orchid," often found in or near streams.

Orchids are both exotic and startlingly familiar at the same time, which is part of the mystique of the plants themselves. And, their fragrances are just as enigmatic. About 85 percent of orchids produce a fragrance of some kind, but often their fragrances are produced for their pollinators, rather than our human noses. Orchids produce scents though structures called "osmophores," which typically resemble tiny hairs with dots of aromatic oils on the ends of them. (Some orchids produce hair-like structures on their flowers that don't provide volatile oils). These osmophores release their aromatics at certain temperatures and particular times of day, tailored to attract their wild pollinators when they're likely to be active. That's why some orchids are exclusively night-fragrant, others are only fragrant during the day and some species have stronger fragrances at dawn and dusk.

So, whether an orchid flower is "fragrant" has to do more with the time of day you are smelling the flower and your ability to detect its fragrance. Pollinating fauna have different abilities to smell flowers than humans often do.

These complications are magnified by orchid hybridizers who typically breed orchids for their flower size and color combinations, rather than their fragrances. This is important, since 98 percent or more of the orchids you are likely to encounter in garden shops will be hybrids. This means that unless you go to someone who grows orchid species in particular, you're probably not going to find orchids with the wealth of fragrances that are truly represented by the orchid kingdom. No worries, though, the largest orchid species grower in the world, Andy's Orchids (*www.andysorchids.com*), lives and sells plants out of his greenhouses in Encinitas.

Luckily, even though the orchids at regular garden shops are not bred for their fragrances, many of them are still fragrant, and delightfully so. Cymbidiums, for example, are cold-tolerant (at temperatures above freezing), have large, waxy, long-lasting blooms and often have hints of lemons or oranges in their bouquets. Not only can your cymbidium handle the same basic cultural requirements as a rose (minus the pruning, and grown in medium or fine fir bark instead of dirt), but it has flowers that can last up to two months each. And, established plants have flowers that can get five or six inches across.

Cymbidiums are the more stately orchids you're likely to find at places like Trader Joe's and big box stores, with fist-sized or larger ovoid pseudobulbs at the level of the substrate, and long, strap-shaped leaves that up to two or three feet in length.

Cymbidium flower colors range from light and dark greens, through pastel and bright yellows, oranges, reddish-browns and pinks. They may or may not have spots on the "lip," one of the structures that you'll notice first when looking at an orchid. The lip looks like a petal with completely different decoration and form than the others. It is typically larger than the other petals, and pointed downwards in resupinate orchids like cymbidiums. This is also where the osmophores or "scent glands" are most likely to be found. Some cymbidium flowers smell like grass or lettuce, so when it comes to these impressive orchids, you should probably smell the hybrids before you buy them.

Species cymbidiums, on the other hand, are likely to have more consistent fragrances from one plant to the next. Some cymbidium species will smell like oranges, and others like gardenias and the finest perfumes (in particular the compact Chinese species like *C. goerngii*, *C. sinense*, *C. kanran* and *C. ensifolium*).

Another fragrant orchid species you're likely to come across on a regular basis at garden shops is the *Cattleya*, or hybrids involving this orchid. Cattleyas have showy blooms that typically last about two weeks, and are often five inches across or more with ruffled edges. Many of you probably

wore cattleya corsages and boutonnieres to your proms, and Cattleya orchids reached the height of their popularity in the 1950s and early '60s. Since that time, these big and fragrant flowers have been hybridized with members of the *Laelia* and *Brassovola* genera to produce larger, more symmetrical, and sometimes more fragrant, blooms. While cattleyas don't last as long as cymbidium flowers, they are supremely and delightfully more fragrant, loaded with osmophores and often smell as good at night as they do during the day.

They are equally easy to grow, requiring about the same bright light levels as cymbidiums, but they like to dry out between waterings a bit more and therefore need to be planted in coarse fir bark mixtures. Cattleyas won't necessarily all grow outside year-round in our climate like the large cymbidiums will, either, so you have to be careful about your selection.

You're likely to do well with intergeneric cattleya hybrids with the abbreviations "Lc." (*Laeliocattleya*) or "Slc." (*Sophrolaeliocattleya*). The latter won't be as fragrant, but are likely to have flowers with more red in them. A good fragrant cattleya should smell like the most overpoweringly intoxicating flower you've ever whiffed, with hints of the best floral notes you could possibly imagine, from frangipani to gardenia to honeysuckle, all rolled into one. Take care, some might smell somewhat medicinal.

The last of the fragrant orchids that you'll be likely to encounter in a garden store environment will probably be *Oncidium* 'Sherry Baby,' which has many awarded cultivars that might appear in single quotes after this part of the name. 'Sherry Baby' is probably the most popular orchid with a fragrance that we can detect, if only because it is known as "the orchid that smells like chocolate."

'Sherry Baby' is easy to grow outdoors, year-round in areas that don't freeze, either mounted on a tree with moss wrapped around the roots or in a pot with fine or medium fir bark. It has starry, usually deep reddish-brown flowers that have been grown larger and larger over the years with improved breeding, blush purple/pink lips with a whitish callus in the center. It has a very sweet aroma with strong hints of vanilla and something else that is hard to characterize, but is nonetheless extremely pleasant. Vanilla is an ingredient in chocolate (and is an orchid itself), and one of the species parent plants of 'Sherry Baby' (*O. ornithorhynchum*) smells like vanilla mixed with chardonnay. Thus 'Sherry Baby's' fragrant reputation comes from the famous chocolate-like aroma might be attributed to its parent for the sweetness mixed with slight hints of astringency, the strong vanilla overtones in the fragrance and the chocolaty appearance of the blooms. Non-orchid hobbyists are typically unaware of how prevalent this plant is in cultivation and how easy it is to grow. It's tough, tends to grow like a weed when compared to other orchids and is very difficult to kill. Some hobbyists can even get it to bloom more than once a year.

"So, where's the 'bad' and the 'stinky'?" you might ask, as I've only described orchids with delightful fragrances, or that are neutral, at worst, so far. Species orchids have fragrances that range from the most pleasant jasmine and gardenias, through roses, primroses, tuberoses, violets, narcissus, paperwhites, hyacinth and anything pleasant in the floral world you could imagine. On the other hand, orchids may also have flowers that smell like every rank cleaning product imaginable, horribly bitter medicines or industrial toxins. Orchids can often smell like fresh or rotten fruits,

San Diego County Orchid Society

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

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General Meeting:
7:30 PM, Room 101

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ambrosial candies, feet, aged cheeses, animal excrement or even dead bodies. Some smell like cut green bell peppers, like *Cycnoches barthorium*, and some like fresh peaches, such as *Dendrobium unicum*. Some smell like my grandma's perfume, such as *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*, or a mixture of wine and perfume, such as *Dichaea glauca*. Some have more complex odors, such as *Stanhopea tigrina*, which smells like an overpowering combination of vanilla, mint and chocolate. Many orchids have green apple fragrances, such as *Dockrillia pugioniformis*, *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii*, *Epidendrum raniferum*, and *Sarcochilus hartmanii*. Some even smell like honey, like *Prosthechea cochleata* (the national flower of Belize), *Prosthechea chimborazoensis*, and *Dendrobium macrophyllum*. Others are reminiscent of candy, such as *Neofinetia falcata*, the "samurai orchid," which has been cultivated for a thousand years or more in Japan. Many smell like cinnamon or freshly-baked apple pies, like the yellow-flowered Mexican *Lycastes*, both *Meiracyllium* species or about a dozen or more members of the genus *Prosthechea* that are found in Central and northern South America.

Yet some orchids smell like the musk glands of animals (some individuals of *Coelogyne ochracea*), or even the treats your dog leaves for you in the backyard, like *Bulbophyllum echinolabium*. Just a couple of weeks ago I was at Andy's Orchids and smelled a *Bulbophyllum orientale* flower that smelled of rotten apple cores and banana peels. Some orchids smell like the skin of a fish or pond scum—like *Ancistrochilus rothschildianus* or *Bulbophyllum psychoon* or *Gastrochilus calceolaris*. *Bulbophyllum carunculatum* and *Masdevallia caesia* both smell like rotten brie. *Bulbophyllum fascinator* smells exactly like boiled crab, which is a pleasant smell in itself, but disconcerting when worn on a flower.

Many of these plants have hauntingly beautiful or proportionately large flowers—the bloom on *B. echinolabium* can grow to 16 inches or more on a plant that would fit in a 10" or 12" pot! Unfortunately, all of these italicized plants are species orchids, have no accurate common names and are not something you're likely to run across unless you go out of your way and find a local grower.

So, how do you experience the myriad of fragrances that orchids have to offer? Purchasing cattleyas would be a great place to start, but you might want to join your local orchid society so that you can make sure you know what a *Cattleya is* first. The San Diego County Orchid Society (*www.sdorchids.com*) is one of the largest orchid societies on the West Coast, and its members will gladly show you to the cattleyas.

Also, orchid shows are ideal places to see, smell, and learn about orchids, and are full of knowledgeable people who can point you in the sweetest-smelling of directions. For starters, try the 62nd Annual SDCOS show in the Scottish Rite Center on April 4-6, 2008 to learn more about orchids and their incredible fragrances, and let your nose do the walking!

On the cover: *Epidendrum stamfordianum*
Photo: Rachel Cobb

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Garden Conversations: Orchids

San Diego County Orchid Society President Genie Hammond chats with *California Garden* about the plant she has loved her whole life.

By Alyssa Holderbein

It is obvious to all that know her that Genie Hammond loves orchids and complements that love with a vast amount of knowledge. Genie is currently serving her third term as President of the San Diego County Orchid Society since first being elected in 1979. She hopes to educate people and promote the growth of this exceptional plant in the wonderful San Diego climate.

California Garden: How did you first come to grow orchids?

Genie Hammond: I've been growing orchids since I was 10 years old. I was downtown with my mother when we saw a florist with huge windows full of blooming cymbidium plants. I insisted mother go and find out about them but they weren't for sale. They told us of the man in Del Mar that they bought the plants from so Grandfather and I drove up. The elderly man who raised them was so interested that a small child wanted to know about plants, especially orchids. He gave me some plants and I've been growing them ever since.

CG: What was it that attracted you to orchids? What makes them special to you?

GH: There is so much variety in shape, size and fragrance. There are 25,000 to 30,000 varieties of species and they are finding new varieties all the time. Some are as small as the head of a pin. The *Ansellia africana* in South Africa can be up to 20 feet across. Fragrance is another thing. Some smell like cinnamon, coconut or even chocolate. We can grow more varieties of orchids in San Diego than any other place in the world. I think it is the variety that keeps orchid people insatiably fixed on orchids.

CG: Was there one person who influenced your interest and love of orchids?

GH: I would say my grandfather and his love of plants, particularly tuberous begonias and roses.

CG: Right now, how many orchid plants do you have?

GH: I've been cutting down my collection. Probably 1,000.

CG: How many would you like to have?
GH: I think I'd like to get it down to about 500 plants. Since you have to re-pot plants every two years, it's a lot of work.

CG: What do people typically do wrong in caring for orchids?

GH: Too much TLC. Most orchids thrive on benign neglect rather than too much attention. If you hose them off just once a week they are fine. Also, people might not put them in enough light or there might not be enough air circulation. If you can grow the plant outside the flowers will last longer than inside, for the majority of orchids.

CG: Are there any special challenges to growing orchids in the San Diego climate?

GH: Maybe, depending on where you live. If you are inland where it is hotter, it might be difficult to give the plant enough light without it getting too hot. And for those on the coast, they might have difficulty giving it enough light because of the overcast days.

CG: What is your favorite orchid?

GH: My favorite orchids have changed through the years. Orchids have cycles just like fashion. Just how skirts and hemlines go up and down, orchids change as well. Sometimes the bigger the better or the smaller the better. Color also changes. Right now everyone wants oranges and browns and reds. I tend to like some of the more unusual ones. There's one *Disa sp.* from South Africa. I was one of a dozen people worldwide outside of South Africa that was successfully growing the disa. I think that probably out of all the orchids I've grown through the years the disa is my favorite because it was rare and hard to grow.

CG: What would you recommend for a beginner?

GH: I recommend oncidiums because they are very easy to grow and flower. Another one would be dendrobiums. They both work as houseplants as well as outside here in San Diego.

CG: Do you have an orchid "hero?"

GH: No, I don't think so. I mean there are many fine orchid growers that have been in my life through the years that I admire but no one I would consider in that light.

CG: What books or other sources of information would you recommend for people to learn more about orchids?

GH: The *Ortho* series book on orchids is one of the best. It is very good and informative. *Home Orchid Growing* by Rebecca Northern is also good. But the best thing is come to a meeting of the San Diego County Orchid Society. It's a very diverse group of people who are very generous with their knowledge. Members bring in blooming orchid plants and put a tag on them with the general information about the plant. It's a good way to see a variety of orchid plants that are being grown locally. We meet the first Tuesday of every month with a novice class that starts at 6:30. Everyone is welcome.

CG: Besides enjoying orchids, what are some of your other interests?

GH: My two grandchildren. I've taken care of them during the day since they were born while my daughter and son-in-law work. I used to raise African Violets. I make jewelry. I also enjoy home decorating.

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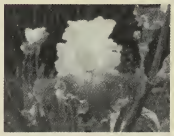
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TREE IN A TRAY

A Quick And Easy Primer To The Ancient Asian Art Of Bonsai

By Phil Tacktill; Sensei, Juisan Bonsai West

"Bonsai" translates from the Japanese to 'tree in a tray.' The art form originated in China where it is called Penjing (a slightly broader term encompassing miniature landscapes). These landscapes are often included in the encompassing term "bonsai." It was said to be inspired by the observation of trees growing in adverse conditions. The limited environments, along with the weather extremes, created environmental dwarf trees with an attractive form depicting the struggle to survive. These miniaturized plants fired the viewers' imagination and emotions, inspiring them to recreate the phenomenon for personal enjoyment. Most people do not have access to these rare, original (sometimes collected) specimens, nor a desire to remove and possibly destroy one of Nature's creations from the wild; so they train accessible plants to imitate Nature. The hobby can easily be started and maintained for years of enjoyment.

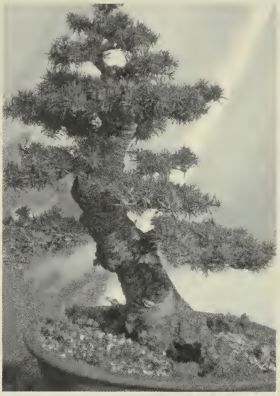


PHOTO: PHIL TACKTILL

For some, the idea of creating and maintaining a bonsai may be very intimidating. Those familiar with the tradition of "true" bonsai are aware that these special trees take decades. What many people don't know is that anyone can quickly create a bonsai that will provide "—instant gratification—" and lots of fun. With an attractive container or slab of rock and some plant material (see sidebar), you can be well on your way to create a miniature landscape. To train bonsai, it is best to become familiar with a number of views relating to the size and distance of view to the bonsai.

A large close-distance bonsai requires the most time to develop, taking years to train and prune the plant(s) to proper shape. This type tends to use more costly materials. For this article we will focus on smaller distant-view bonsai. These can be made quickly and inexpensively and can be very rewarding. Plants can be cuttings, liner stock and young nursery material.

Remember that these are living plants with specific needs to survive, so think about where you will be locating the bonsai when selecting material. Most bonsai are created using small, immature plants, typically trees and shrubs. In selecting plant material, you should choose between indoor or outdoor plants, depending on where you wish to grow and display it. The list below is an introductory point, but check out nurseries with an open mind. Think plants with good form and small-scale foliage. Many plants have dwarf form or small foliage which are better suited for tray landscapes.

Bonsai is an art form of many dimensions and disciplines. Each 'tree in a tray' is will be different and unique, which is why each is so special. Looking at the bigger picture, wherever you start, know that there are many ways to create a bonsai appearance.

Distant View Bonsai Forms

Your distant-view landscape may be one of a number of related art forms that incorporate distant and far-distant views (like looking through the wrong end of a telescope), which, as it develops and gains maturity, might eventually become a specimen close-view bonsai.

Sometimes distant views are groves and rock plantings. Saikei was developed as an alternate to bonsai at the end of World War II when Japan's economy was depressed. Most Japanese could not afford to purchase older bonsai. The original idea was to utilize young, developing plant material in a distant-view tray landscape, while training the material to eventually become a mature bonsai. Currently, artists use saikei plantings as an art from, in and of itself, using rocks and material to reflect Japanese scenes.

Hon Non Bo and Toucanh, are Vietnamese art forms similar to bonsai, reflecting a distant view of a Vietnamese landscape using water-holding trays to simulate a coastline. They are currently being created on a miniature scale. Hon Non Bo creations are often shown with active waterfalls, as well as mist, adding to the tropical effect.

Rock Penjing utilize tall stones to give the appearance of distant, sharp-cliff island formations, usually displayed in marble trays with very dwarf plant material. (Penjing and Hon Non Bo are not limited to miniature scale; both can utilize large areas and rocks weighing many tons.)

For practical purposes, these scenes are usually created on a small scale for home display and may measure from a few inches to a few feet long. The key is that all the elements are in scale with one another. The scenes that you can create are seemingly endless. While most have an Asian feel, others may represent a California surfing beach, Wild West town, a desert and cactus landscape—there are no limits to the scenes you can create!

Table-size distant views can take just a few hours to assemble. Materials can be gathered at one's convenience: trays, rocks, potting soil, plant material, and accessories.

Guideline for Care and Maintenance of Bonsai

- Know the plant material and what environment it needs.
- Water plants 'as required' (most plants are killed by over-watering). Insert a chopstick deep into the soil—; remove. If it is very wet, do not water. And, of course, if it is slightly moist to dry, water it. Outdoors, one can spray the foliage—this will dampen the surface of the soil. Misting is not a replacement for watering.
- Some purchased bonsai have pebbles cemented on the surface, blocking water from penetrating the soil. Remove the pebbles.
- Do not worry about the mosses that cover the surface of the soil as an aesthetic addition to the bonsai. They often do not survive and can be changed.
- Home heating and air conditioning can present problems with the success of maintaining your bonsai. They cause the humidity to drop (like a Santa Ana). In-home humidity can be as low as eight percent—the Sahara Desert is said to have 33 percent humidity.
- Consider the lack of light for growing indoors. As you move away from the window, the light drops geometrically. I would suggest using ficus or schefflera indoors. They are excellent plants for indoors—they are low-light tolerant.
- When a bonsai dries out, it is difficult to re-hydrate. The bonsai container can be placed in a shallow pan of water with the level of the water slightly higher than the bottom of the container. Let is sit until the soil gets wet, capillary action will draw moisture up through the drain hole and thoroughly moisten the bonsai. If the plant is quite dry, the water could take up to three hours to penetrate the soil. This is the best way to water.
- If you want to keep an outdoor bonsai strong and healthy while displaying it in the house, it is best to create several to rotate them weekly.
- In addition, be aware of the plants needs, such as: temperature, light and moisture requirements, and fertilization.

As you get to know your plant, its care will become a familiar routine. A daily check on the moisture and the seasonal variations will become second nature.

As you practice bonsai, there are immeasurable rewards that are not so easily achieved in other hobbies. Bonsai stirs your imagination as you learn patience, understanding and discipline, while also developing an expanded view and appreciation of some of the Asiatic art forms.

Rules? There are none, though guidelines are rampant. Take the advice you like as you embark on this creative adventure. Enjoy yourself as you take on a hobby that benefits your psyche!

Where to Enjoy the Bonsai Experience:

- Quail Botanical Gardens Ikebana and Bonsai Show, Feb. 23rd and 24th.
  (A rare opportunity to see a display of all these various art forms.)
- Coronado Show, April, Coronado
- San Diego Bonsai Show, April 26th and 27th, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
- San Pu Kai Show, May, Carlsbad Senior Center (*www.sanpukai.org*)
- San Diego County Fair, June 14th to July 6th Del Mar Fairgrounds

Where to Find Permanent Bonsai Displays:

- Japanese Friendship Garden, Balboa Park
- Botanical Building, Balboa Park, (Hon Non Bo)
- San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido

Where to Purchase Material:

- Kuma Bonsai Nursery, Route 67, Lakeside
- Walter Andersen Nursery, San Diego and Poway
- Armstrong Nursery, various locations
- Cedros Gardens, Solana Beach

Organizations

See San Diego Floral Associates affiliate listings on page 37 for several bonsai-related groups in San Diego.

For further information, contact P. Tacktill at 858-259-9598 or *jiusanbonsai@roadrunner.com*

Selection Guide for Good Bonsai Plants

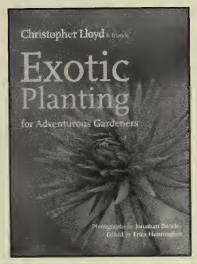
Species	Indoor	Outdoor	Dry	Moist	Sun	Shade	Flower	Fruit	Distant View
Acacia	X	X		X	X		X		X
Acer		X		X		X			X
Bougainvillea	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Brassia (Schefflera)	X	X		X		X			
Boxwood	X	X		X	X	X			X
Calliandra	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Carissa	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Fukien Tea	X			X		X	X	X	X
Chaenomeles (Quince)		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
False Cypress	X	X	X	X	X				X
Citrus (Most)	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Cotoneaster	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Cuphea	X	X		X	X		X		X
Eugenia (Brush Cherry)	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Ficus (All)	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Jasminum - Jasmine	X	X		X	X		X		X

Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

Exotic Planting for Adventurous Gardeners

By Christopher Lloyd and Friends
Timber Press
$30 (hardcover) 192 pages



Immerse yourself in Christopher Lloyd's non-traditional approach to English gardening in this exotic work.

Christopher Lloyd was acknowledged as one of Britain's gardening gurus, so in 1993 when he dug up his mother's 80-year-old rose garden to plant flaming cannas, bold musa bananas and vibrant phormiums, it was a huge shock to the national culture. According to friends who completed this manuscript after Lloyd died last year, he loved the effect of his new garden on visitors as much as he treasured the color and broad forms that now filled it to overflowing.

Designed by Edwin Luytens, the former rose garden is still surrounded on three sides by its thick hedge and a rustic old cow shed ("the hovel") sheltering the fourth side. Lloyd also retained the ten geometric planting beds that filled the relatively small 1,500 square foot area. A few roses were left, but they now share the space with large colorful shrubs, perennials, annuals and succulents. Many of his plant selections are familiar to California gardeners, but his method of crowding them together for the four or five months they are in the ground, produces a truly exotic jungle effect that is beyond dense.

Lloyd's intent was to write an introductory "how-to" book in hopes of freeing up his compatriots from their traditional ways and liberating them to the fun and excitement of huge shapes and wild color. He devoted separate chapters to each phase of the design, beginning with hardy structural shrubs and trees, then exotic perennials such as cannas and dahlias, and then under story fillers of succulents, cacti and annuals. Color photos illustrate Lloyd's inspiration and love of adventure, with bright colors and bold forms overflowing all margins. The last chapter is an informal encyclopedia, providing a narrative description of each plant mentioned in the text.

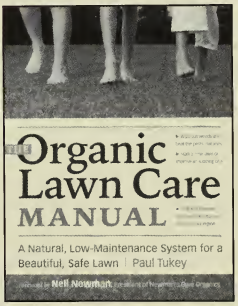
Chapters added by his friends expand on Lloyd's information offering their own impressions of the garden. They suggest that he succeeded in starting a national gardening trend, but add that not everyone has his eye for color and form, so the results in some home gardens were not entirely successful!

The cost of such extreme zonal denial includes the necessity of replacing fading plants as the summer progresses and eventually potting up everything for wintering over in green houses. In some respects, Lloyd echoed the 19th century enthusiasm for hot-house plants, but where those settings were sedate and formal, his aim was to create something "full of mystery" where one could wander and even feel lost in "peculiar and unfamiliar surroundings."

– Marge Howard-Jones

The Organic Lawn Care Manual

By Paul Tukey
Storey Publishing
$20 (paperback), 272 pages



Getting a "green lawn" takes on new meaning with this organic gardening guide.

Gardens start from the ground up. We garden in and on ground. It serves as background for the structure of our garden design and holds our landscape together. It's the basis for all things outside our front doors. The plant material we put on it is discussed in this review of a book specializing in organic lawn care.

This reviewer's personal bias, gained from living in our water scarce environment, is that lawns are perhaps no longer a necessity but now a vanishing luxury. However, if lawn you must, then organic lawn care is always preferred.

The Organic Lawn Care Manual is written by Paul Tukey, National Horticultural Communicator of the Year 2007. He is the founder of Safelawns (*www.safelawns.org*) and holds many other credentials.

The book is written in a well-organized format suitable for even the most novice lawn owner or gardener, and has many illustrative photos and diagrams to strengthen the text. An organic lawn is a relatively new concept, but a great one. Tukey begins the book by delving into the benefits of

organic lawn care to both owners and the environment. After discussing the organic philosophy, the book takes the reader through the steps of evaluating what kind of lawn to choose or switch to. Usage, space, climate, water availability and sun exposure are all factors to be considered. How much work the owner will want to do to maintain a lawn is also discussed.

A description of the anatomy of grasses helps the reader understand how grass works in various environments based on its structure and growth habit. Once the site and situation are determined, the book describes various grass types and displays charts to help the reader decide on the right grass for the right situations, many times using a 24-point checklist. Site preparation for new lawns and replacement lawns, as well as edging installation, helps the lawn owner get started. Perhaps the best information in *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* is on problem solving using non-toxic methods, including weed identification and management, patching, watering, feeding and pest management. There is no doubt that changing to organic lawn care will require patience and perseverance, but the benefits will outweigh the efforts in time. *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* includes some alternative ground cover choices as well and a brief note on xeriscaping.

A glossary of terms and a good resource guide complete this edition. Each topic is thoroughly and completely explored, some chapters seeming like Basic 101 gardening but it all can lead to a successful organic lawn. If you want to have a lawn, you'll want to read this book. – *Laura Starr*

San Diego Horticultural Society
Meetings 2nd Monday of each month
6 - 9 pm ❖ Free Meetings - Everyone Welcome!
Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display.
Meetings are open to all and everyone is very welcome

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- ❖Lending library: books & videos
- ❖Trips to outstanding gardens
- ❖Nursery discounts
- ❖Event discounts
- ❖and much more!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

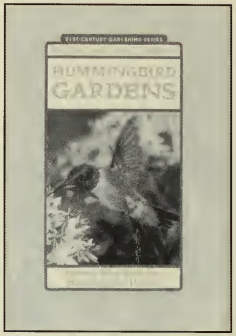
March 10: Planting Sculpture, Sculpting Plants
Berkeley artist **Marcia Donahue** is known for granting permission to gardeners to be as playful and adventurous in their gardens as they dare to be. She shares her passion in a talk about the gardener as sculptor. ***FREE.***

April 14: Bioenergy from Camelina Plants
Learn how (and why) Montana scientist **Duane Johnson** is working to develop *Camelina sativa* for the manufacture of biodiesel and jet fuels, high omega 3 livestock feed, and new lubricants. ***FREE.***

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

Hummingbird Gardens: Turning Your Yard Into Hummingbird Heaven

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Publishing Co., Inc.
$10 (paperback), 112 pages



Turn your garden into a hummingbird heaven with the help of this brief book.

There is some good news, there is some bad news, and then there is some good news again.

To start with some good news, this book has marvelous illustrations of the hummingbirds of North America, plus comprehensive descriptions of the nesting habits, range, migration patterns, etc., of each species. Extremely important to gardeners are the descriptions (and sometimes colored photos) of many of the plants which especially appeal to the little buzzers.

As this book has been written to cover hummingbirds of the entire United States and their favorite nectar plants, not all information will be pertinent to Southern California gardeners. (There are 18 hummingbird species listed in this book, only eight of which are likely to be spotted in our county.) However, the majority of the information is indeed helpful, and a substantial portion of the plant listings include ones which will grow in our Mediterranean climate.

Here is the bad news: When perusing the plant listings located toward the back of the book, I did a double-take—the proofreader(s) really goofed! The description about Mexican honeysuckle on page 91 was abruptly stopped in mid-sentence, and page 92 started with part of a description of a different plant. I'm hopefully this discrepancy will be corrected soon.

Now, for a second batch of good news: Included in the gallery of flying fauna is a section on hummingbird moths, and how to attract them to the garden. Many people probably are not aware that these comely, fascinating insects frequently visit yards. The first time I noticed a hummingbird moth was at dusk, the moth busily hovering above some spreading purple lantana. As I watched it in the fuzzy dim light, I remember thinking, 'a tiny hummer with antlers!' But then I noticed the "antlers" were really antennae, and I resolved to cut back on my grape juice intake.

I really appreciated the information on hummingbird moths in *Hummingbird Gardens: Turning Your Yard into Hummingbird Heaven.* Thanks to this inclusion, people may be encouraged to stop, look and discover all the kinds of wonderful interesting creatures that may be found in their yards, and to be inspired to cultivate a balanced, ecologically healthy garden by trashing the toxins and providing plants to nurture our beneficial flying friends. – *Pat Pawlowski*

Now is the time

Timely tips to keep your plants happy throughout March and April

African Violets

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Revitalize violets by repotting every six months with fresh soil that has been sterilized in an oven or microwave.
- Leach violets with warm water at the first sight of fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot and/or on the top of the soil.
- Search the Internet to find commercial companies or individual growers who will sell and ship plants to you.
- Fertilize violets with one-half the amount suggested on the label if you use "wick" watering, as it is a continuous watering system, requiring less nutrients in the well.
- Avoid using violet fertilizers using urea as one of the ingredients. Check the label!
- Isolate the violets from other houseplants or cut flowers to avoid infestation.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Replenish soil and mulch when needed.
- Start feeding. Give one-fourth strength of a good all-purpose plant food once a week; half-strength if twice a month. Full strength if once a month.
- Keep plants moist, but not too wet.
- Start new plants from cuttings, leaves or seeds.
- Keep plants free of spent blossoms and leaves.

Bonsai

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Repot bonsai: Deciduous trees need repotting more frequently than conifers. Repot deciduous trees every one to two years and conifers every two to three years.
- Root prune before repotting, and be sure to wire the roots into the pot securely.
- Broad-leaved evergreens such as azaleas should be repotted in March.
- Graft conifers and deciduous trees.
- Adjust watering according to weather conditions—avoid over-watering during rainy season.
- Repotted trees should not be fertilized until one month after repotting; otherwise start fertilizing in April.
- Rape seed cake fertilizers are the best for bonsai. Lacking that, use chemical fertilizers diluted to one-fourth strength to avoid root and leaf burn.
- Watch for aphids, and treat with insecticidal soap, protecting the soil. Aphids may be present on deciduous trees as well as on conifers.

Bromeliad

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Start cleaning plants after their quiet winter by flushing them between the leaves and center cup. Also, cut off dead leaves.
- Check for scale; if present, treat them with Cygon #2 according to instructions on the bottle.
- Spread snail and slug bait around the plant area.
- Increase watering according to warmer temperatures. Make sure not to over-water the potting area, as bromeliads do not like to have soggy roots.
- Be prepared to provide protection from the hot sun, which will so be approaching.

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery in Old Town

- Fertilize your cacti and succulents. Broadcast a time release solid (pebble-like) fertilizer throughout your garden; fertilizer numbers (N-K-P) should all be under 20 and relatively equal (Dynamite 13-13-13 works well). If using a liquid fertilizer, be careful to dilute. Use half strength or less for all of your succulent plants (especially those in pots).
- Make sure plants are given adequate water after fertilizing. If it doesn't rain, be sure to water, especially in Santa Ana conditions (in other words, warm winds). Spring is an important growth period for both your winter growers (Dudleyas, Senecios, Aeoniums) and your summer growers (most Cacti, Agaves, Pachypodiums, Adeniums, etc.). Once the nighttime temperature stays above 50 degrees you should thoroughly water all cacti. Slowly soak the soil if planted in the garden, and set potted cacti in pan of water drenching the soil but not the plant. Once the nighttime temperature stays above 50 degrees you should thoroughly water all cacti; slowly soak those in the ground, and set potted cacti in pan of water drenching the soil but not the plant. This will help leach out any accumulated salts and promote healthy roots. Many of the more exotic, grafted and white spined (or furry) cactus do not respond well to overhead watering.
- Plant your seedlings and cuttings. Once it starts to warm up start your cuttings. Spring is a great time to start new plants from cuttings. Most succulent cuttings can go directly into soil. Allow euphorbia and cactus cuttings to dry and heal (sulphur powder or root-tone helps) before planting.
- Add rock/gravel topping. Remove all debris, dead plants and leaves, snails and weeds and replace with a nice rock or gravel topping. This will no only conserve water and keep your soil in place, but it also keeps the weeds down and looks great!

Dahlia

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Check any stored tubers you may have. Throw away any that rotted (too much moisture is the usual cause). Conversely, any that look dry and shriveled should be given a light spritz of water.

- Plant in your garden for summer and the annual Dahlia Show in August. Turn over and prepare your soil now. Add manures and water in thoroughly to wash away the salts.
- Dig up plants that stayed in the ground all winter to check for viable eyes." Divide these tubers leaving an eye on each tuber (eyes are on the top of the tuber near the stalk—no eye, no grow!). Plant about four to six inches deep horizontally with the eye facing up. Cover with light soil, stake and name each plant.
- Plant tubers around the end of March that were started in a hot house or warm area.
- Protect shoots as they emerge from snails and slugs, and cover tender growth for a week or so from direct sunlight (I use black plastic pots). New tubers do not need watering as long as the soil stays moist—begin watering when the plant is about four inches tall.
- The Colorado Dahlia Society (*www.dahlias.net*) is a very good website to search and find pictures and growers, and more tips on growing. (Apologies to those not on the Internet. Please give me a call and I will read you some pertinent information: 858-672-2593. Please leave your name and phone number if you get the machine.)

Epiphyllums

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Watch weather reports for possible late frosts.
- Trim dead and unsightly branches.
- Check for ants, aphids and scale.

Ikebana International
San Diego Chapter

40th Anniversary Celebration

Japanese/Ikebana Flower Arrangements
And Cultural Exhibitions

花の友

Theme "Flower Friendship"
("Hana-No Tomo")

March 15th and 16th, 2008
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Casa del Prado, Room #101
Balboa Park, San Diego

四十周年記念花展

Ikebana Demonstrations

Saturday	Sunday
12:00 pm - Ichiyo School	1:00 pm – Wafu Kai School
1:00 pm - Chikoh School	2:00 pm – Sigisan Shinka School
2:00 pm - Sogetsu School	3:00 pm – Ohara School
3:00 pm - Ikenobo School	

Japanese Arts and Cultural Exhibition

March 16th, 2008 Sunday only
11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Casa del Prado, Room #104

Displays and Demonstrations

12:00 pm - Girl's Day Dolls
12:30 pm – Kimono Dressing
1:30 pm – The Art of Furoshiki
2:30 pm – Japanese Dishes for Food and Noren Hangings
3:30 pm – Koto Music

Free Admission

- Feed epiphyllums with a low-nitrogen fertilizer is the accepted standard, though many any find any fertilizer works fine, as long as there is some applied.
- Check trellis and ties to insure plants are well-secured.
- Give plants more filtered sunlight, but not direct sun, to encourage development of buds.
- Bait for snails. Granules are effective when placed at the base of the plant. Nightly 'patrols' with a flashlight are effective. A one-percent solution spray of pure caffeine is also very effective, if you can find it.
- Check to make sure all pots are in a place where they have good drainage.
- Take cuttings now to callous before planting.
- Remove buds from young plants. You will be rewarded with a healthier plant with more blooms in the future.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Fertilize with half strength high-nitrogen liquid or slow-release pellets.
- Remove dead and dying fronds. Clean up plants for spring.
- Water more frequently as most ferns are starting to grow now. Save rainwater for plants that don't get it naturally. It will leach out salts.
- Divide and repot overgrown plants as they start to grow. Top-dress others.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Start looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
- Watch for giant white flies. Best treated by wiping off egg spirals and hosing plants.
- Sow last year's spores.

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension

- Irrigate when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of three feet.
- Apply fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one-pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.
- Begin thinning fruit of apples, pears and stone fruit when they are about 1/2" in size. Space fruit four to six-inches apart, or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early-maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late-maturing varieties.
- Check trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap, horticultural oil or pyrethrin, to protect beneficial insects.
- Keep ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper or duct tape around the trunk and coating it with a sticky material like Tanglefoot. Trim branches to stop ants from going around the barrier. Also place ant stakes or small containers with toxic bait by ant nests and trails.
- Spray apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply carbaryl (Sevin) after petals have fallen and again three weeks later. For other control methods, see UC Pest Notes on Codling Moth at *www.ipm.ucdavis.edu*.

- Control powdery mildew on grapes. Apply sulfur spray (Safer Garden Fungicide) or dust when new shoots are 6", 12", 18" and 24" long. Then every two weeks, or as needed, until harvest.

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Weed and prep beds for new plantings.
- Amend and fertilize soil.
- Plant annual herbs after the last frost. Borage, cilantro and dill will do better if planted by seed. Basil can be grown by seed or transplant.
- Protect new plants from snails and slugs.
- Harvest from our native herbs: sagebrush, Yerba mansa, white sage, black sage and elderberry, among others.
- Make fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary and sage. Fresh or dried, they make great gifts for your gourmand friends.

Iris

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Start feeding low-nitrogen, all-purpose and liquid fish fertilizers.
- Water regularly if there is no rain.
- Clean beds and keep weeds under control.
- Watch for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.
- Give Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Monitor your local rainfall total. If it is above average there is no need to water.
- Finish your planting of natives. March is the end of the planting season for most of the drought tolerant species. Some riparian area natives, such as Yerba mansa, can be planted throughout the year.
- Weed out the non-natives (sowthistle and such).
- Enjoy the brilliance of California poppies and other blooming wildflowers. Inhale the earthy fragrances of sagebrush, black sage, laurel sumac and chaparral, and breathe in deeply the heavenly fragrances of wild lilac and woolly blue curls.

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego Orchid Society

- Watch for new growths and repot anything needing a new pot. It is also a great time to replace any green and white moss in pots and baskets that rotted during the winter.
- Train developing spikes, particularly among Oncidium.
- Look for blooms on Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Phalaenopsis and developing spikes on Dendrobiums.
- Begin or increase watering for decidiuous orchids as temperatures increase and plants show signs of growth.
- Enjoy Dendrobium season; Phalaenopsis are particularly active this time of year as well.
- Water plants more often and make sure that the increased light and temperatures don't cause sun damage. Fertilizers can be increased this time of year, too.
- Finish all necessary repotting before temperatures get too hot.
- Monitor any cooler-growing plants you acclimated last winter and make sure they're not getting stressed as temperatures rise.
- Pot up keikeis (the babies) from your Epidendrum stems so you can make new plants to give to friends, family or your local orchid society.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Keep plants clean. Remove dead, older and/or damaged leaves to open up the plant. This will promote new growth and protect against molds and fungi, including geranium rust on zonals. Removal of older leaves allows more light into the plant interior and will result in fuller plants with more blooms.
- Repot into larger containers, if necessary, and pot rooted cuttings.
- Maintain a steady water cycle. Even if conditions turn to rain, your foliage may get wet but the rain may run off of the foliage and not get into the pot. Keep your plants watered.
- Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use at one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Appy on two-week intervals.
- Continue a pest-control and disease-prevention program This is the time of year to become proactive in guarding against geranium rust, budworm and aphids. There are several combination products that contain both an insecticide and fungicide and will treat with one application. Follow manufacturer's recommendations and keep preventative control on a steady, continuous schedule.
- Top-pinch any long or barren stems to promote fuller growth and increased flowering.
- Protect plants from late season freezes. Temporary coverings may be used. Moving plants to elevated locations may help. Placing plants overnight in a protected place like the garage will help avoid or minimize foliage damage. Moving plants closer to the outside walls of the house may be beneficial.
- Spread out plants so they have plenty of room to grow and spread. This will provide better air circulation and light, which also lessen the likelihood of pests and disease.
- Continue to rotate plants to keep them well-shaped.

Plumeria

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Move potted plants from protected winter areas to warm, full sun.
- Start watering and fertilizing with a low nitrogen fertilizer like 3-12-12.
- Take cuttings and prune; prune only to shape the plant.
- Repot plants and "top up" larger plants; this is to replace the soil with fresh and a vitalized mix. Use one-half cactus mix, one-fourth #3 pearlite and one-fourth wormgold plus. Keep soil at level as before.
- Expect first new blooms from last season's remaining inflorescence.

Roses

Al Heck, San Diego Rose Society

- Apply at least one inch of water twice per week to keep plants well-hydrated.
- Start the growing season fertilizer routine. Provide half

the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N-P-K) by using inorganic fertilizers and half using organic fertilizers. Provide micronutrients by using Magnum Grow inorganic fertilizer monthly.

- Examine plants for signs of downy mildew, which is a mold that invades plant tissue and destroys the plant from the inside out. Signs are entire leaf sets falling off when touched, purplish blotches on canes and cane death, irregular black blotches on leaves, mysterious loss of overall plant vigor and stunted growth. Treat by alternating Aliette and Stature. Downy mildew thrives during cool, wet periods and is inactive when daytime temperatures exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Control aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning. They are also repelled by fresh banana peels laying at the base of the plant and are easily squished by fingers of the non-squeamish.
- Control thrips and rose slugs (sawfly larvae) using Conserve. Thrips hatch inside pea-sized buds and distort the blooms, while rose slugs thrive on the underside of leaves and eat most of the leaf, leaving only its lacy-looking skeletal remains.
- Control powdery mildew. Either wash each bush with a water spray every morning or spray with fungicides. Goodcontrol is achieved by alternating Compass and Banner Maxx, spraying every two weeks. You can also shovel-prone bushes that are susceptible and replace them with mildew-resistant plants.
- Love and preserve beneficial insects by avoiding the use of any general pesticide like Orthene or Merit. Keeping beneficial insects alive will keep spider mites dead. If you use powerful pesticides like the two mentioned, spray only the flower buds.
- Look for and preserve basal cane growth, which is new growth originating at or slightly above the bud union (where the blooming part of the rose was grafted to the root stock).

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Prepare soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them several weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply no more than 20 lbs. of poultry manure or 50 lbs. of steer manure per 100 square feet.
- Plant cool season vegetables: beets, carrots, celeriac, celery (transplants), chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, green onions, parsley, parsnips,bush peas (March), early white potatoes, radish, rutabaga (March) and spinach (March). Plant warm season vegetables after danger of frost is past and soil is warm: snap beans, cantaloupe, chayote, corn, cucumber, eggplant, Florence fennel, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, squash, tomatoes and watermelon.
- Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and other warm season vegetables.

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Getting Firewise

Protect Your Home From The Next Big Fire Through Improved Landscaping Techniques

By Amy R. Wood

"Were you affected by the fires?" It's a question we've all been asked numerous times since October 21, 2007. Whether asked by friends, co-workers or family members from far away, it always boils down to one simple truth: for several days in October 2007, there was a chance that wildfire could spread into just about every community in San Diego County.

The 2007 fires were particularly devastating, causing more damage than the 2003 Cedar Fire, and necessitating one of the largest evacuations in U.S. history. The fire affected a broad spectrum of people, from those living in the ranches of Ramona to those occupying condos in Del Mar. Suburban homes in Rancho San Bernardo burned to the ground, and between 250-500 local farms, growing a wide variety of items, were destroyed or damaged in the multiple fires.

Fires will happen. In our climate, with little rain, lots of un-cleared brush, canyons that act as fire freeways and occasionally high, dry winds to push hot flames in multiple directions, fires can easily grow and spread. It is up to us to plan for fire, and to manage our landscaping to prevent our homes from fueling the fire. It's up to us to become firewise.

Defining "Firewise"

Speak to any fire official for long enough and they will inevitably bring up the term, "firewise." Firewise is defined as being prepared for a possible wildfire, and of incorporating fire-aware land management that emphasizes the use of carefully planned plant zones. These plant zones are designed to help protect homes from wildfire. The use of hardscaping and native plants is promoted in firewise landscaping, as well as maintaining a healthy, green garden through proper irrigation and pruning. Those who closely follow the tenets of a firewise approach to landscaping will greatly reduce the spread and home loss from wildfires.

It is impossible to completely prevent fire from burning down your house through landscaping alone. Embers can travel up to five miles in strong winds, and even if your home landscaping is properly spaced and planted with high-moisture plants, an ember on your roof can mean problems regardless of your careful planning. That said, it is smart to assume that you can help prevent fire from touching your home by becoming firewise and managing your plants in a responsible way.

The first step is learning about firewise buffer zones. Depending on where you live in Southern California, you may already be aware of a zonal approach to landscaping. It may even be mandated by your local fire marshal, or necessitated in order to obtain certain building permits.

There are two zones that you should create around your home (this is especially important for those living in semi-rural or rural areas); both zones are included within a 100-foot radius of your home. This 100-foot radius is referred to as "defensible space."

Defensible space is a key component of firewise landscaping. The first zone within this area is referred to as the home defense zone, and is the first 35-50 feet surrounding your home (check with your local fire marshal for your jurisdiction's specific buffer zone requirements). Within this zone, it is advised that you plant fire-resistant, irrigated plants. The zone is sometimes referred to as "the setback zone;" the idea being that fire will be slowed by living plants that have a high-moisture content. These plants may include thick-leaved shrubs and trees, succulents and many native plants.

The second zone, the further 50-65 feet of the 100-foot radius, is referred to as the reduced fuel, or "greenbelt" zone. This area should feature only natural vegetation, with plants that are no higher than six inches. Within this zone it is important to not keep the ground bare, as that will promote erosion. The most important element of the defensible space zone, all 100-feet, is that it's kept clear of combustible vegetation.

(Please note: In some parts of the county, there are additional restrictions and recommendations for the defensible space radius on property containing significant slopes; for more information on this, please contact your local fire marshal. Contact information for most local organizations can be found at *www.wildfirezone.org.*)

For people with a significant parcel of land, the 100-foot radius defensible space should be doable. Those with smaller lots or in urban areas might find themselves scratching their heads, as their entire yard may fall within a 35-foot radius. Even if you have a smaller yard, it is important to adapt the recommended guidelines to reflect your urban space. If 35 feet is unrealistic, still try follow some of the spacing guidelines and techniques laid out in the rest of the article. Once you've calculated your home's relative safety zones, it's time to start planning your landscape and garden.

Choosing Plants

Choosing plants for a firewise landscape is fairly easy, and can lead to a beautiful, diverse collection of plants. When choosing plants, consider how much work they will be to care for, and how they will fit amongst your existing garden. This is because, while plant selection is important, design, placement and maintenance is imperative. Keep these factors in mind as you select the plants for your property. Every plant will

become combustible if it's never watered, planted too closely to other plants and/or structures or is allowed to accumulate copious amounts of dead material.

The first step is to choose fire-resistant plants for your yard. Fire-resistant plants are defined as plants more likely to survive a fire than those not rated fire-resistant. They are less combustible than other plants, and in fast, low running ground fires they have, on occasion, stopped fires and saved homes.

Fire-resistant plants have easily defined characteristics. They have leaves with high-moisture content. Their leaves are flat and wide. They have open, loose-branching patterns. They are deciduous, and have a low-resin content. They are drought-resistant. Some examples of fire-resistant plants are the yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), oak leaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), dogwood (*Corus* spp.) and white oak (*Quercus alba L.*). Some highly-flammable plants to avoid include cedar trees (*Cedrus* spp.), bamboo (*Bambusa* spp.), deer grass (*Muehlenbergia* spp.) and acacia (*Acacia* spp.).

When creating a firewise garden or landscape, use native plants whenever possible, as they are designed to flourish in the Southern California environment. Invasive, non-native plants are especially dangerous because they are not acclimated to our unique climate. Many invasive grasses, such as wild oats (*Avena* spp.) and bromes (*Bromus* spp.), are winter plants, completing their life-cycle long before our hot summer months. They create dead, highly-flammable fuel just in time for the June-November fire season. Additionally insidious, many invasive plants, like fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) can re-sprout quickly after a fire. They notoriously move in and take over where native species have been burned to death, taking the native plant's land and choking off their ability to re-populate. It is important to avoid and eradicate non-native plants, such as mustard (*Brassica* species), ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*) and periwinkle (*Vinca major*) from your property whenever possible.

Spacing

Keeping your plants properly spaced is another key to becoming firewise. Dense plantings, especially of non-fire-resistant plants, can help fuel any ground fire, and if the grouping has any significant height (such as a grouping of palms, or trees with creeping vines reaching from the branches to ground) it can create increased ember danger.

Start with a buffer of space around your home. Leave at least three to five feet of clear space around the perimeter of any structure on your property, including decks and garages. This space will help if an ember ever lands on your roof and rolls off. If it rolls off into an inflammable space, there is nothing to catch. On the other hand, a row of decorative grasses, their fuzzy tips tickling the walls of your home, is combustible material that will easily ignite.

Additionally, it's important to incorporate hardscaping into your landscape. Hardscaping uses inflammable materials in your landscape, such as decorative rocks, gravel, cement fences and rock-based driveways. Hardscaping can be a controversial subject, and sometimes get a bad rap. Critics deride it as unnatural, cold and "ugly," though there are a number of ways to use hardscaping along with an "organic" approach to landscaping. One way to incorporate hardscaping is to use decorative rock or gravel walkways between plants that need to be spaced apart. This creates a mini-fire break, as well as provides a new way to explore and enjoy your plants. Also consider using river rocks as borders, or decorative rocks around deck posts instead of plants.

You may also want to use some hardscaping where you previously used organic mulch. Fine or stringy organic mulch should be used sparingly in a firewise landscape, and never up against the sides of your home (try to create a space of at least three to five feet between your home and any wood or bark mulches). While the benefits of using organic mulch are well-known to experienced gardeners—mulch retains moisture,

Firewise Plants

This list of trees, shrubs and groundcover are just examples of some of the many plants recommended by the county to be planted within 100 feet of any structure (a.k.a. defensible space plantings). For a more complete listing, just visit *www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/fire_resistant.html*. (Please note: Plants denoted with an asterisk are native.)

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
TREES	
Acer platanoides	Red Maple
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	King Palm
Arctostaphylos spp.*	Manzanita*
Populus alba	White Poplar
Populus trichocarpa	Black Cottonwood
Prunus xblireiana	Flowering Plum
*Rhus lancea**	African Sumac*
*Umbellularia californica**	California Bay Laurel*
SHRUBS	
Ceanothus spp.*	California Lilac*
Lantana spp.	Lantana
Lotus scoparius	Deerweed
*Ribes speciosum**	Fuschia-Flowering Gooseberry*
SHRUBS CONTINUED	
Salvia spp.*	Sage*
Sambucus spp.*	Elderberry*
Verbena lilacina	Lilac Verbena
Yucca whipplei	Foothill Yucca
GROUNDCOVERS	
Aptenia cordifolia	Red Apple Ice Plant
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer
*Eschscholzia californica**	California Poppy*
*Ferocactus viridescens**	Coast Barrel Cactus*
Helianthemum spp.*	Sunrose*
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
*Viguiera laciniata**	San Diego Sunflower*
Vinca minor	Dwarf Periwinkle

reduces weed growth and is attractive—densely packed organic mulch, packed two inches or deeper, can burn for long periods of time, and is often tremendously hard for firefighters to put out once it catches. So, continue to use mulch, but be aware of it as possible fire danger.

A good rule of thumb is to space shrubs two times the distance apart as the average height of the mature shrubs. (In other words, three-foot tall shrubs should be separated by six feet of space). Also, be sure to create some separation between the lowest tree branch and highest shrub branch if the two are planted next to each other. Trees should be planted away from chimneys and power lines, and all decorative grasses should be kept separated by at least two feet (hardscaping or using light amounts of thin mulch around individual plants is helpful).

Prune

One way that you can help keep your plants from being ultra-combustible is by keeping them free of dead or dying materials. Even the most "fire-safe" or moisture-rich plants can use a good pruning from time to time.

In fact, reducing fuel volume—parts of plants that can help fuel a bigger flame, and can spark traveling embers—is the most important thing you can do as a firewise gardener. Cut back dried palm fronds, pull dead needles from your pine trees and pull up grasses or flowers that have turned gold. This routine maintenance is not only essential, but can help improve the look and health of your plants. Some local plants that are notorious for accumulating dead materials are cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), saw palmento (*Serenoa repens*) and juniper (*Juiperus* spp.).

Well-pruned trees are important for fire safety. Dead branches or fronds can not only ignite, but also send embers far and wide in high wind. Though many individuals and communities do an excellent job of keeping their trees well maintained through annual pruning, we've all seen palms with dead fronds lining the length of their trunks, as we drive around our county's communities. It is important if you own a lot with trees that you take away any ladder effect, or in other words, anything at a low height that ground flame can use to climb up and ignite the more fuel-rich canopy area above. A small ground fire can become a big, far-reaching ember fire if it can climb just one under-pruned palm tree. Prune away lower branches, but do not prune the canopy—you want to be sure to keep at least two-thirds of each tree's branches, for the tree's over-all health. A good target branch-free zone is five-feet from ground.

Some additional common-sense rules to follow with trees include keeping branches pruned back at least 10 feet from your chimney and from electrical lines, as high winds may knock the lines down and ignite your trees. If a tree needs to be pruned away from an electrical line, call the appropriate utility company to do the job. Keep the roof and gutters clear of any plant materials, as well. Even if you have a fire-resistant roof, a spark to a gutter full of dead leaves can cause problems.

For those with ranches, or for those whose communities buttress canyons and other under-managed scrubland, keeping dead or dry fuel clear within a certain safety zone is not only a solitary concern, but a community concern as well. Many communities are banding together to create volunteer groups that will keep traditionally overgrown areas free from dangerous underbrush or fire prone, invasive plants that have choked out native plants, both significant fire dangers. Some small farms and HOAs even bring in the cavalry, in the form of hired goats who eat everything in sight, an innovative and eco-friendly approach to land management. (One such business is Living Systems, *www.livingsystemslandmanagement.com*).

Whenever you take on large jobs, it is important to use legal brush clearing practices. Some areas of San Diego County are covered by specific rules considering habitat destruction (such as rules protecting the California gnatcatcher and coastal sage shrub) and erosion control, and many counties prohibit chipping or waste fires. Contact your local firehouse or one of the agencies referenced at the end of this article.

Safety vs. Aesthetics

In the end, for most gardeners and landscapers, creating a truly firewise landscape boils down to aesthetics. While most non-gardeners will argue that creating and maintaining a firewise yard is too time consuming, too much work, not their responsibility, etc., most gardeners' main argument against adopting a firewise approach to land management is that it simply doesn't meet their aesthetic expectations. Many firewise techniques, while smart, go against many gardening philosophies, and some old ideas about what "looks good" might be hard to change. The question then becomes, how important is your home? These choices—whether to use native fire-resistant plants and hardscaping, space plants according to firewise guidelines or keep plants properly maintained—can mean the difference between whether or not you lose your home to fire and help spread an already fickle flame to neighbors and beyond. Choosing between safety and aesthetics can be as easy as choosing between your home and fishing through ruins.

Need More? For more information on creating a firewise landscape, please contact the following agencies. All have websites full of helpful information, and each will provide additional fire safety materials upon request.

- Fire Safe Council of San Diego County: *www.firesafesdcounty.org*, 619-562-0096
- Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County: *www.rcdsandiego.org*, 760-745-2061
- San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use: *www.sdcounty.ca.gov*, (800) 411-0017
- California Department of Fire and Forestry: *www.fire.ca.gov*, San Diego Unit 619-590-3100
- Wildfire Zone (U.C. Cooperative Extension Farm and Home Advisor's Office): *www.wildfirezone.org*, 877-357-7705
- University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources: *http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.com*, 800-994-8849

Aerial drop during the Sawtooth Fire 2006.
Photo: Courtesy California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and VIP Photographer Wes Schultz

These moisture-rich aloes not only survived the 2007 fire, but also prevented flames from reaching the wall.

Photo: Deborah Lee Baldwin

Having a firewise garden, as seen just above and to the left can help stop a ground fire.

Photo: Deborah Lee Baldwin

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SDFA Calendar 2008

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for March and April

March Events

MARCH 1

23rd SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW **THREE DAY EVENT**
Become inspired by 20 specially created display gardens by talented local Garden Masters. Sponsored by San Diego Horticultural Society, there will be continuous garden lectures, experts, plant societies and plant vendors. Adults $8, Children under 12 free. After 3:00 p.m. $5, Web e-tickets $5, Seniors (Friday only) $1
When: 11:00 a.m. – 6:00p.m. (February 29), 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (March 1), 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (March 2)
Where: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA
More information: *www.springhomegardenshow.com*

MARCH 3

SAN DIEGO MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING
Join the SDMS as they bring in mushrooms to identify, host guest lecturers and share mushroom recipes and delectables.
When: 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdmyco.org*, **760-754-0273**

PALOMAR DISTRICT OF THE CALIFORNIA FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Learn to create beautiful and simple designs in this Floral Design Forum (Gudy Kimmel will present). Open to anyone interested in floral design; there is an $8 fee.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA
More Information: *www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs*

MARCH 4

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting, and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class at 6:30 p.m., General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting), Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdorchids.com*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
The SDHC's Landscape/Propagation Program Group will talk about propagation, using organic amendments and which herbs are good landscaping choices for hedges and groundcovers. There will also be a seed swap.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.followingseasons.com/thesandiegoherbclub.html*

MARCH 5

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The Palomar Orchid Society monthly meeting hosts a class for beginners and a main meeting—both are free and open to everyone. There will be refreshments, raffles and giveaways.
When: 6:45 p.m. (beginner class) – 7:30 p.m. (main meeting)
Where: Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA
More Information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

MARCH 7

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The Vista Garden Club Monthly Meeting begins with lunch at noon; program begins about 1:15 p.m. This month's program will be about the flower show, including horticultural and design entry preparation. Visitors are welcome.
When: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista, CA
More Information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

MARCH 8

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY - MABEL CORWIN BRANCH MEETING
Come listen to educational speakers focused on begonias and other shade loving plants and much more.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA
More Information: President Denise Knobloch, 619-409-4997

DOS VALLES GARDEN ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
Come join the DVGC club as they celebrate Arbor Day.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Adams Park, 28751 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center, CA
More Information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*, **760-759-5078**

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Admission is free and all persons with an interest in cacti and/or succulents are invited! Mark Muridian will do a video presentation, "Bolivia: Gateway to Andean Cacti."
When: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdcss.com*

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB
The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. classes for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
The monthly San Diego Bromeliad Society meeting and lecture is free to all who wish to attend.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

MARCH 9

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
Admission is free to this monthly meeting, and guests are welcome. There will be a raffle and surprise table, as well as a program.
When: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

MARCH 10

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Come join Berkeley artist and sculptor Marcia Donahue, who will talk about one of the season's hottest topics, art in the garden, in "Planting, Sculpture, Sculpting Plants." SDHS meetings include a plant raffle and forum. Free admission and everyone is welcome. Come mingle!
When: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA
More Information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*, **760-295-7089**

MARCH 11

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
DVGC club meetings involve the discussion of club business, horticultural tips and sharing and critiquing different types of floral designs. In this month's program, Allen Luce will present "Pollination." Visitors are welcome.
When: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen's Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Rd., Valley Center, CA
More Information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*, **760-751-1906**

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for the raffle and enjoy!
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdgeranium.org*

MARCH 12

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, a door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program, featuring Scott Parker, who will speak about University of California Integrated Pest Management.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street Ramona, CA
More Information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
We are a neighborly group who love everything about gardening and getting together. Come and play in the dirt!
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Bonita Valley Public Library, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: Club President, Lynne Batchelor, 858-451-6764

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
San Diego Coast District Resource Ecologist Darren Smith will present "Restoring Native Habitat at Torrey Pines State Reserve Flintkote Plot." Robin Pokorski, Director of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. will also favor us with a brief overview of the CGCI. Guests are welcome!
When: 10:45 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.plgc.org***

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
This is the San Diego Epiphyllum Society's general meeting.
When: 7:30 pm
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.epiphyllum.com***

MARCH 15

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
****TWO-DAY EVENT****
Come learn about Japanese flower arrangement with Ikebana Demonstrations.
When: 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. (March 15), 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. (March 16)
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MARCH 17

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Consult Rosarian Phil Ash 7 p.m., then stay for the general meeting at 7:30 p.m. meeting is free, and visitors are always welcome.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sdrosesociety.org***

MARCH 18

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Join the California Coastal Rose Society at 6:15 p.m. to hear special topics at our pre-meeting, Rose-a-holics. The 7:00 p.m., general meeting includes a raffle, roses and special guest speaker, Gisele Schoniger from Kellogg Garden who will speak on soils and fertilizers.
When: 6:15 p.m. Rose-a-holics, 7:00 p.m. general meeting
Where: Heritage Hall at Magee Park, 2650 Garfield Street, Carlsbad, CA
More Information: ***www.californiacoastalrose.com***

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Come join the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter at 7 p.m. for a half an hour mixer, then stay for the 7:30 general meeting. The meeting is free and open to the public.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***http://cnpssd.org***

MARCH 19

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Join the San Diego Camellia Society for their monthly meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Society President, E.C. (Gene) Snooks, 858-454-6659

MARCH 20

BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come see Angel Vallina, floral designer for the Bernardo Heights Country Club, share his talent for designing unique floral arrangements and learn his tips on designing.
When: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Where: Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive in Rancho Bernardo, CA
More Information: ***www.bernardogardeners.org***

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together, and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sdfern.com***

MARCH 25

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
This is the San Diego Dahlia Society's monthly meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Society President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Programs, speakers, workshops, study groups and tours cover a variety of garden-related topics, and give members the opportunity to expand their knowledge and interests.
When: 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center: 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028
More Information: ***www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub***

MARCH 26

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
This is Mission Hills Garden Club's monthly meeting. Meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.missionhillsgardenclub.org***

SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS MEETING
This is the California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter monthly meeting.
When: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.crfgsandiego.org***

April Events

APRIL 1

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego County Orchid Society is holding two meetings: a general meeting, and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class at 6:30 p.m., General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting), Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sdorchids.com***

APRIL 2

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The Palomar Orchid Society monthly meeting hosts a class for beginners and a main meeting—both are free and open to everyone. There will be refreshments, raffles and giveaways.
When: 6:45 p.m. (beginner class) – 7:30 p.m. (main meeting)
Where: Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA
More Information: ***www.palomarorchid.org***

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
The San Diego Herb Club hosts Bill Tall of City Farmers Nursery, speaking on "The Most Popular Herbs for San Diego County." The club meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m., and the program will begin at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to visitors.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.followingseasons.com/thesandiegoherbclub.html***

APRIL 4

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The Vista Garden Club Monthly Meeting begins with lunch at noon; program begins about 1:15 p.m. This month's program will be about bamboo. Bob Di Mattia, a.k.a. "Bamboo Bob," will demonstrate the wonders of this useful plant. Visitors are welcome.
When: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista, CA
More Information: ***www.vistagardenclub.org***

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW **THREE DAY EVENT**
The San Diego County Orchid Society is hosting their 62nd annual show, titled "Orchid Opulence." Everyone is welcome!
When: Times vary, check with the club for more details
Where: Scottish Rite Center 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sdorchids.com***

APRIL 5

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY ANNUAL CUTTING SALE
****TWO-DAY EVENT****
Admission is free to this annual event, and guests are welcome. Please bring cash or checks, as credit cards will not be accepted.

When: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Saturday, April 5 & Sunday, April 6)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB GARDEN TOUR
Join the Fallbrook Garden Club for their 4th Annual Garden Tour. Some of Fallbrook's finest private gardens of various sizes and themes will be included on the tour. Tickets are $20 for individuals or two for $35.
When: 9:00 a.m.–3 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Historical Society, 260 Rockycrest Road, Fallbrook, CA
More Information: *www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub*

APRIL 6

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY - MABEL CORWIN BRANCH MEETING
Come listen to educational speakers focused on begonias and other shade loving plants and enjoy the member show and tell, "everybody wins" plant raffle and refreshments.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA
More Information: President Denise Knobloch, 619-409-4997

HON NON BO MEETING
This is a Hon Non Bo Association bi-monthly event.
When: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Club President, Brenda Storey, 858-689-0957

APRIL 7

SAN DIEGO MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING
Join the San Diego Mycological Society as they bring in mushrooms to identify, host guest lecturers and share mushroom recipes and delectables.
When: 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdmyco.org*, 760-754-0273

PALOMAR DISTRICT OF THE CALIFORNIA FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Learn to create beautiful and simple designs in this Floral Design Forum (Mary Poythress will present). Open to anyone interested in floral design. There is an $8 fee.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA
More Information: *www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs*

APRIL 8

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for the raffle and enjoy!
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdgeranium.org*

APRIL 9

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Come join the Ramona Garden Club for refreshments, a door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program. California Rare Fruit Grower President Jim Bathgate will speak.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street Ramona, CA
More Information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
We are a neighborly group who love everything about gardening and getting together. Come and play in the dirt!
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Bonita Valley Public Library, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: Club President, Lynne Batchelor, 858-451-6764

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
This is the San Diego Epiphyllum Society's general meeting.
When: 7:30 pm
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

APRIL 11

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART ART ALIVE **THREE DAY EVENT**
Join the San Diego Museum of Art for the 27th annual Art Alive, a floral extravaganza featuring a number of floral events, including a floral demonstration/lecture and separate master class with Jeff Leatham, French Gardening Lecture with Nan Sterman and to-the-nines gala event. Please contact the SDMA for each event's admission price.
When: Times vary, contact for details
Where: San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdmart.org/artalive.html*, 619-696-1999

APRIL 12

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Admission is free and all persons with an interest in cacti and/or succulents are invited!
When: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdcss.com*

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB
The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. classes for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

APRIL 14

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Duane Johnson will discuss bio diesel fuels and other plant-derived products. SDHS meetings include a plant raffle and forum. Free and everyone is welcome. Come mingle!
When: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Where: Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, CA
More Information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*, 760-295-7089

APRIL 15

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Join the California Coastal Rose Society at 6:15 p.m. to hear special topics at our pre-meeting, Rose-a-holics. The 7:00 p.m., general meeting includes a special guest speaker, raffle prizes, refreshments and of course roses!
When: 6:15 p.m. Rose-a-holics, 7:00 p.m. general meeting
Where: Heritage Hall at Magee Park, 2650 Garfield Street, Carlsbad, CA
More Information: *www.californiacoastalrose.com*

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Come join the California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter at 7 p.m. for a half an hour mixer, then stay for the 7:30 general meeting. The meeting is free and open to the public.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

APRIL 16

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Join the San Diego Camellia Society for their monthly meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Society President, E.C. (Gene) Snooks, 858-454-6659

APRIL 17

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together, and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdfern.com*

APRIL 19

CORONADO FLOWER SHOW **TWO-DAY EVENT**
The City of Coronado's 82nd annual Flower Show is a standard flower show, including a horticulture, design and children's section. Come enjoy the floral entries (open to submissions from the public), continuous entertainment and trophy presentations at the largest flower show held under tents on the West coast.
When: 8:00 a.m.—3 p.m. (Saturday, April 19), 10 a.m.—5:00 p.m. (Sunday, April 20)
Where: Spreckels Park, 601 Orange Avenue, Coronado, CA
More Information: Flower Show Chair, Leslie Crawford, *FlowerShow08@aol.com*, 619-435-0334

APRIL 20

BERNARDO GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB SPRING GARDEN TOUR
Come join in Bernardo Gardeners' for this annual self-guided tour of a few local member/community gardens. This big fund raising event helps the club provide a scholarship to a deserving horticulture student from Cuyamaca College.
When: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Where: Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive in Rancho Bernardo, CA
More Information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

APRIL 21

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING

Consult Rosarian Phil Ash or learn floral arrangement with Dixie Dahl at 7 p.m., then stay for the general meeting at 7:30 p.m. This meeting also features the SDRS Little Rose Show. The meeting is free, and visitors are welcome.
When: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

APRIL 22

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING

This is the SDDS's monthly meeting.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Society President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

APRIL 23

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Come learn about Japanese flower arrangement, as demonstrated by Shingisan Shinka-Ryu School.
When: 10 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

This is Mission Hills Garden Club's monthly meeting. Meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS MEETING

This is the California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego Chapter monthly meeting.
When: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

APRIL 26

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**

The San Diego Bonsai Club hosts their annual show. There will be demonstrations, plant sales and much more.
When: 10:00 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW **TWO DAY EVENT**

Join the Fallbrook Garden Club as they present their 77th Annual show, titled "Nature's Palette." The show will feature nature artwork alongside flower entries. Admission is free; contact the club for entry details.
When: 2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. (April 26), 10:00 a.m.–4 p.m. (April 27)
Where: Fallbrook Community Center: 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028
More Information: *www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB GARDEN TOUR

Visit several unique inland county gardens at the first ever Ramona Garden Club garden tour. There is a $15 fee.
When: 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Where: Contact club for more information.
More Information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

15TH ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL

Come join The Water Conservation Garden, Cuyamaca College's Ornamental Horticulture Department and the Heritage of the Americas Museum and learn about water-wise gardening, buy a plant from the large plant sale and enjoy Native American art and culture, among many other fun activities. Admission is free.
When: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway El Cajon, CA 92019
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*

APRIL 29

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Programs, speakers, workshops, study groups and tours cover a variety of garden-related topics, and give members the opportunity to expand their knowledge and interests.
When: 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center: 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028
More Information: *www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub*

GARDENING CLASSES

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS

Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. March's courses are: Indoor Plants (Mar 1), Spring Vegetables (Mar 8), Ornamental Trees for San Diego (Mar 15), Spring Lawn Care (Mar 22), General Orchid Care (Mar 29). April's courses are: Water Gardens (Apr 5), Herbs care and use (Apr 12), Azaleas (Apr 19) and Epiphyllum – Orchid Cactus (Apr 26).
When: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS

Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. March's courses are: Container Gardens (Mar 1), Citrusand Avocados (Mar 8), Staghorn Mounting and Care (Mar 15), Herbs (Mar 22) and Orchids (Mar 29). Please check contact the store for a schedule of April events.
When: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES

The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*, **619-660-0614, x10**

WALKS, TOURS & GARDEN EVENTS

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR

Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events for adults and families. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: *http://thegarden.org*

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK

Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.
When: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

BUENA CREEK GARDENS FREE GARDEN TOUR

Join Steve Brigham for this free, monthly garden tour.
When: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., second Saturday of each month
Where: Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Rd. San Marcos, CA
More Information: *www.buenacreekgardens.com*

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Continued on page 37

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.

GENERAL MEETINGS

2008

February 19

April 15

June 17

October 21

Casa del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

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First Vice President
Lucy Warren

Second Vice President
Lynne Batchelor

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AFFILIATES:

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin 619-445-8352
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532

CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Kathy Puplava 858-576-3828
Box 9424, San Diego, CA 92169-0424
Website: *www.citybeautifulofsandiego.org*

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
Information: 949-499-5518
P. O. Box 742, Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
Email: *marshab@gte.net*

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Lao 619-232-2721
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Dir: Jerry Thirloway 858-755-3284
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
Exec. Dir.: Julian Duval 760-436-3036
P. O. Box 230005, Encinitas, CA 92023-0005

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
Pres: Victor Tongco 619-234-8901
2125 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101-4792

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Exec. Dir: Alexander Chuang 619-338-9888
404 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92101-6803

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Dept. 619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
P. O. Box 120551, San Diego, CA 92112-0551

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Nancy Abernethy 760-742-1842
P. O. Box 876, Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
1st Wed - 10:30 am
Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi 619-255-2501
1455 49th St., San Diego, CA 92102-2625
1st Sun - 9:00-11:00 a.m., Casa del Prado
Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Librarian: Joan Endres 619-660-0614
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. W
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:
CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711 858-459-0316
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
3089C Clairemont Drive #296 619-296-9687
San Diego, CA 92117-6802

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR, PAUL ECKE JR. FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
Email: *flowershow@sdfair.com*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
Vickie V. Driver 858-522-6760
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
Email: *vdriver@sdcwa.org*

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Pres.: Judy Dunning/Cindi Lohry 619-579-0222
200 Highline Trail, El Cajon, CA 92021-4082

JIM STELLUTI CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARTIST
1928 Madison Ave. 619-298-7641
San Diego, CA 92116-2722

GARDEN CLUBS:
ALPINE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carlette Anderson 619-445-5716
2451 Night Star Ct., Alpine, CA 91901-1449
1st Fri -10:00 am, Homes of Members

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Pres: Adele Kelly 858-673-8728
PO Box 27179, San Diego, CA 92198-1179
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Rancho Bernardo Library

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Lynne Batchelor 858-451-6764
16048 Caminito Aire Puro
San Diego, CA 92128-3557
2nd Wed - 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Pat Cooley 437-8227
950 Olive Ave., Coronado, CA 92118-2710
4th Mon - 9:30 a.m., Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Anne Smith 760-931-9863
3358 Don Diablo Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92010-3914

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betsy Cory 619-656-8669
P.O. Box 57, Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
3rd Thu -11:45 a.m., Norman Park Senior Center

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Nancy Griffith 619-435-8079
P.O. Box 180188, Coronado, CA 92118-0188

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jeanne Bowers
P.O. Box 180476, Coronado, CA 92178-0476
4th Thu - 9:30 a.m., Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Evelyn Kent 760-749-5078
13224 Blueberry Hill La.
Valley Center, CA 92082-0123
2nd Tue - 12:30 p.m., Valley Center Com. Hall

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Judy Farnan 760-451-0792
P. O. Box 1702, Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
3rd Wed -7:00 p.m., FPUD Bldg. on Mission Rd.
Last Thu - 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chair: Mrs. Louisa Pillsbury 858-551-4556
16049 Vista de Golf
San Diego, CA 92091-4340
2nd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joan Blankenship 858-488-5618
5171 Crystal Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037-7951
3rd Tue - 1:30 p.m., L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Vernon Bluhm 760-745-1219
710 W. 13th Ave. G118
Escondido, CA 92025
Email: *vbluhm@cox.net*
4th Mon. 2:00 p.m. Rancho Bernardo Library, 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3919 Portola Place
San Diego, CA 92103-2705
3rd Mon - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Co-Presidents: Felicia Moscinski 760-726-4047
809 Olive Ave., #40, Vista, CA 92083-3373
Don Nelson 760-630-3580
952 Park Hill Drive
Escondido, CA 92025-4853
Email: *donnelson12sbcglobal.net*
3rd Sat - 12:45 p.m., MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg. (upstairs)
Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Meredith French 619-260-1588
San Diego, CA 92103-5502
4th Wed - 6:30 p.m., Mission Hills United Church of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw St.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Nancy Hurlburt 619-223-3315
P.O. Box 8382, San Diego, CA 92166-0382
Co Pres. Margaret Cook 619-223-0253
3930 Del Mar St. San Diego, CA 92107-3735
2nd Wed - 10:00 a.m., Portuguese Hall
2818 Avenida de Portugal

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co.Presidents
Rosemary Anderson 858-672-0459
14908 Satanas St.San Diego, CA 92129-1529
Lucille Rosicky 858-672-6225
14809 Priscilla St. San Diego, CA 92129-1524
2nd Wed - 9:00 a.m., Lake Poway Pavilion

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Teri Schmidt 760-789-8774
P.O. Box 1412, Ramona, CA 92065
2nd Wed - 12:00 noon Ramona Women's Club

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Carol Wells 619-749-8325
1818 Sonetts Dr., El Cajon, CA 92019
3rd Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Hal Sexton 858-756-1554
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marj Myers 619-448-3613
9241 Galston Dr., Santee, CA 92071-1510
4th Tue - 9:30 a.m., Homes of Members

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Pres: Susi Torre-Bueno 760-295-7089
P. O. Box 231869, Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
2nd Mon - 6:30 pm, except June
Surfside Race Place
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Jimmy Durante Blvd.

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Geri Thirloway 858-3284
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92078-1620
4th Wed - 9:30 a.m., Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Ann Craig 858-454-4117
1802 Amalfi St., La Jolla, CA 92037-3803
4th Thu., 10:00 a.m.,
Torrey Pines Christian Church

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Barbara Weiler 760-630-0383
2920 Harris Dr., Vista, CA 92084-1418
1st Fri - 12:00 noon, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046
10411 San Carlos Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Janet Judge 858-759-2477
P.O. Box 2248
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-2248
4th Wed - 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689
2822 Walker Dr., San Diego, CA 92123-3056

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 500765 858-672-7850
San Diego, CA 92150-0765
2nd Tues - 10:00 a.m., La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Akiko Bourland 858-273-5899
2936 Havasupai Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117-1641

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137
10830 Montego Dr., San Diego, CA 92124-1421

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198
2829 Flax Dr., San Diego, CA 92154-2160

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Patty Regan 760-295-0484
2000 S. Melrose Dr. #119, Vista, CA 92081
4th Mon - 10:30 a.m. - Vista Library,
700 Eucalyptus Ave.

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
4505 Long Branch Ave.
San Diego, CA 92107-2333
2nd Tue - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Denise Knobloch 619-409-4997
465 4th Avenue #3, Chula Vista, CA 91910
2nd Sun - 1:30 p.m., except May & Aug.
Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
6040 Upland St., San Diego CA 92114-1933
Last Sat - 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
9976 Dauntless St., San Diego, CA 92126-5514
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Information: 619-699-8776
P. O. Box 40037, San Diego CA 92164-0037
2nd Sun. - 10:30 a.m., Casa del Prado, Rm. 101
Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am before meeting July/August 2007 | 37

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Pres: Joann Dossett 619-469-3539
2871 Brant St., San Diego, CA 92103-6119
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Nancy Groves 858-453-6486
(weekends only)
www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
P. O. Box 83996, San Diego, CA 92138-3966
2nd Sat., 10:00 a.m., Room 104,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 840, Escondido, CA 92033
4th Sat - 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Sr. Ctr., Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020
P. O. Box 33181, San Diego, CA 92163-3181
2nd Sat - 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659
6114 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037-6702
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Meetings Nov. through Apr. ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593
11375 Nawa Way, San Diego, CA 92129-1116
Email: *djsj21643@aol.com*
4th Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Betsy Hamblin 858-483-5584
851 Opal St., San Diego, CA 92109-1780
1st Sat. - 10:00 a.m., Sep. through May
Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mildred V. Mikas 858-485-5414
P. O. Box 126127, San Diego, CA 92112-6127
Website: *www.epiphyllum.com*
2nd Wed. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017
3141 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-2945
3rd Thu. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Chair: David Silverstein
4722 Coronado Ave., San Diego, CA 92107-3543
4th Thu. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado
Nov. & Dec. ONLY, 3rd Thu.

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Brenda Archer 619-447-8243
6404 Zena Dr., San Diego, CA 92115-7026
2nd Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Copresidents: Judy Dunning and Cindi Lohry
619-579-0222
Meetings on the 1st Wed. of every month at
7:00 p.m., Balboa Park
Casa del Prado, Room 101

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Leon Vogel 951-677-5587
26440 St. Ives Ct., Murrieta, CA 92563-6087
2nd Sun. - 1:00 p.m.
Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188
4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
1st Thu. - 7:30 p.m. -
Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Carolyn Martus 760-434-5033
P. O. Box 121390 *www.cnpssd.org*
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
3rd Tue - 7:00 p.m., Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
3045 Felicita Rd., Escondido, CA 92029-6725
4th Mon. - 2:00 p.m. - Rancho Bernardo
Library, 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY
A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM
SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
Pres: Loren Ellsworth 858-748-8355
14730 Dash Way, Poway, CA 92064-2914
3rd Wed. - 7:00 p.m., Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Genie Hammond 619-426-6831
P. O. Box 161020, San Diego, CA 92176-1020
1st Tue. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086
935 Rawhide Ct., Bonita, CA 91902-2422
4th Tue. - 7:00 p.m., Bonita Valley Baptist
Church at 4701 Sweetwater Rd. Meeting in
back. EXCEPT Aug. & Dec.

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795
P. O. Box 20553, El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
4th Sun. - 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Feb. through Oct., Casa del Prado, Room 102
Email: *c.herzog@att.net*

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Karen Mannino 619-401-9625
11977 Paseo Fuerte, El Cajon, CA 92020-8366
Website: *www.eastcountyrosesociety.com*
1st Sun - 2:00 p.m., except July & Aug.
Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Ruth Tiffany 619-462-5753
6705 Maury Dr., San Diego, CA 92119-2020
www.sdrosesociety.org
3rd Mon. - 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado
EXCEPT Jan. & Feb. - 4th Mon.
No meetings July & Aug.

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE
P. O. Box 120505 FAX 619-223-TREE
San Diego, CA 92112-0505
Email: *adoglover1@juno.com*
4th Tue. - 6:30 p.m., 743 Imperial Ave.

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Pres: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704
1302 Avocado Rd., Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
3rd Sun - Apr. through Oct.
Website: *groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden*
Email: *dc@pondplants.com*
Call for meeting information.

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762
Email: *membership@sdfloral.org* **Deadline for May/June issue: March 10, 2008.**
Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-cardsized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (tiff, jpeg or pdf files preferred).

Calendar continued

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden. (contact for admission prices). There is a $3 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+) and $2 for children and military with I.D.; free for children under six.
When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10 a.m., every Saturday starting January 12
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More Information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

CONTACT US! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *calendar@sdfloral.org* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming May/Jun 2008 issue is March 10, 2008; the deadline for the Jul/Aug 2008 issue is June 10, 2008.

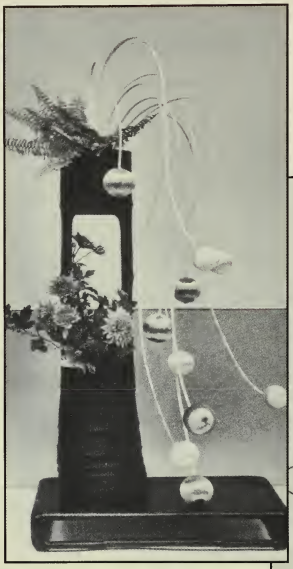
From The Archives

California Garden
March 1972

Oh, the '70s, what an exciting and dynamic time! It hardly seems history for some of us, yet ancient times for our younger members. Free-love, radical ideas and eschewing tradition affected us all, even in a discipline as traditional as floral arranging. What was radical then has been incorporated and absorbed into current floral design, and we're all the better for it. — *Lucy Warren*

Flower Arranging is a Changing Art

By Dorothy Marx,
Photos by Betty Mackintosh



The occasion of the opening of Casa del Prado (November 14, 1971) not only brought out the best horticulture displays each plant society could offer but many flower arrangements by San Diego artists whose medium is plant material.

The unusual variation in arrangement styles and materials shows that this art is changing as rapidly as other phases of life today. Here, too, it is popular to scorn the traditional. The arranger "does her own thing."

Little conscious effort is made to obey the principles of design, and those who discuss these guides even seem dated. But no matter how unfettered the arranger, how unusual her combinations of material, or how "far out" her container, the real artist will create a balanced arrangement which is well proportioned and has satisfying accents and a feeling of movement (rhythm) sure to delight the viewer, simply because she herself will not like a composition without these attributes.

We have come far from the traditional, often crowded, mass arrangement of 30 years ago. Seldom were the rule-bound arrangers who made them able to achieve the self-expression necessary to produce fine art.

Today we use color, texture and space boldly. Contrasts are sharper. We use fewer flowers, which requires more skill, but we make larger and much, much taller arrangements. Distinction and originality, fine use of space created by skillful manipulation of material, and third-dimension are qualities more and more highly prized.

It is hard to believe that we were once taught not to combine chrysanthemums, associated with fall, with spring plant material or to combine native material with exotics. Today there are no "holds barred" and few who do not accept the combining of plant material with man-made or man-molded metal, plastics and glass. In fact, to create an example of modern sculpture is more and more challenging.

Those of us who love the art of arranging do not think of it as therapy, though we would admit there is excitement in finding something new and using it well, a tonic which can keep us young and happy. Probably there is no more pleasant way to achieve the creativity which is good for us and to escape from today's pressures that to take up flower arranging as a hobby. Try it. You may find yourself changing, too.

San Diego County's 5th Annual California Friendly Landscape Contest

More than $3,500 in prizes for homeowners

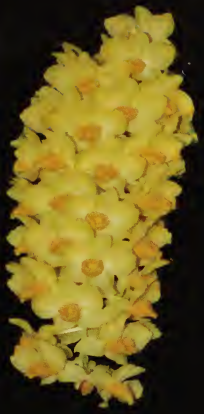
"California Friendly" means more beauty with less water

Get more information at www.landscapecontest.com

Entry deadline is April 7

San Diego County Orchid Society

62nd annual show and sale



Orchid Opulence

Friday April 4, 2008 — 4 pm to 9 pm
Saturday April 5 — 9 am to 6pm
Sunday, April 6 — 9 am to 4 pm

Scottish Rite Center
1895 Camino del Rio
San Diego, CA. 92108

www.sdorchids.com
for more info, contact:
Steve (619) 405-0412

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San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
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